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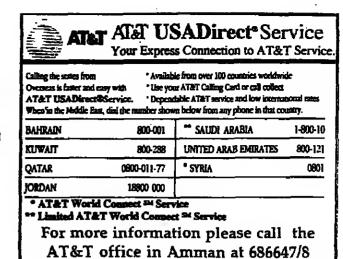
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Arab League urges end of sanctions on Libya

CAIRO (AFP) — Arab League leader Esmat Abdel Meguid said Monday that a report possibly linking the 1988 Lockerbie bombing to Palestinians showed that there was little evidence against Libys in the case. The Guardian newspaper in London published excerpts from a document Saturday showing the U.S. State Department was warned that Palestinians were planning an attack on a PanAm airliner three weeks before the blast over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270 people on Dec. 21, 1988. "I personally think that what was published recently by the Guardian regarding a document proving the innocence of Libya is something which demonstrates once again the West's weak position towards Libya," said Mr. Abdel Mcguid. He called for a lifting of U.N. economic sanctions imposed on Libya in 1992 because of its allocated limits of the control alleged links to terrorism. "The Arab League will continue to defend the Libyan point of view because we consider it has conformed to international law," he added. Two Libyans have been iodicated in the United States and Britaio in connection with the bombing.





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King, Crown Prince stress that Jordan's initiative to help Bosnians motivated by pure humanitarian considerations

H.M.: Economic benefits of peace will be realised in 3-5 years Prince Hassan urges cooperation for development of region

By Ayman Al Safadi Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan stressed Monday that Jordan's initiative to help end the suffering of the Bosnian people is motivated hy humanitarian considerations that transcend political, ethnic and religious dimensions of the conflict.

King Hussein said that the initiative, which included humanitarian assistance as well as political contacts with Muslim and world leaders to belp bring the Bosnian "tragedy" to an end, embodied "Jordanians' belief in human values and the necessity of respecting human rights and dignity.'

Speaking to journalists during a meeting at the residence of Prince Hassan, King Hussein reiterated his call for an effective international action to end the hostilities in former Yugoslavia.

"If things continue as they are, the world will be pushed towards more tragedies, and worse situa-tions could develop." King Hus-

'His Majesty said that his effort' to push for a termination of hostilities in Bosnia included contacts with Western and Arab and Muslim leaders, noting that he stressed to the ambassadors in Jordan of the five permanent

Premier sends

Hariri

condolences to

Ali Al Haj. The deceased was laid to rest in Sidon

Court sentences 4

CAIRO (AP) — A court sentenced a Muslim militant

to life in prison and three others to 15 years of hard

lahour Monday for trying to

hlow up a husload of Korean

tourists in 1993. Four others

charged in the case were

found innocent. The eight

men were arrested after mili-

tants threw a can packed with

explosives in front of a tourist

bus on the way to the pyra-

mids in February 1993. There

were no injuries in the attack.

Militants have targetted tour-

ism, one of Egypt's main

sources of foreign currency, in their attempt to ruin

Egypt's economy and hring

down the government. More

than 780 people, including

eight tourists, have died since

militants began their cam-

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's

constitutional court on Mon-

day backed President Boris

Yeltsin's decision to send

troops into Chechenya to

crush its drive for independ-

ence, a ruling critics said car-

ried political overtones. The

court distanced itself from

the human rights implications

of the decision, which un-

leashed seven months of war

which killed and maimed

thousands of civilians and

combatants and created wave

after wave of refugees. But it

said parts of an accompany-

ing government decree on

deportations of suspected

troublemakers and rules for

journalists covering the con-

flict were anti-constitutional.

The ruling follows weeks of

deliberations by the 19-

member court.

paign in 1992.

Russian court

backs Yeltsin

Monday afternoon.

Islamists



His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness

members of the Security Council that the continuation of the 'situation represents and insult to the world, to humanity and to

The King said that Jordan will "do all that it can" to help alleviale the suffering of the Bos-

"Refugee camps in (Bosnia) shook the world and brought back to memory images of the Holocaust," said Prince Hassan, who last week flew to former Yugoslavia in a joint Jordanian-Muslims and Jews have been

Crown Prince Hassan Monday talk to representatives Sarajevo, said the crimes committed in the war in former Yugoslavia are "a reminder of,

the legends of the middle ages, "The degree of hatred cannot be described," said Prince Hassan, who stressed that the only interest Jordan has in the Bal-

kans is humanitarian. Prince Hassan said a political solution to the conflict is the most effective way of dealing with it, adding that "the facts on the ground are not encouraging for an outside military interven-Israeli relief mission to Bosnia.
Prince Hassan, who said that the United Nations and other international bodies set up to victims of the aggressioo lo deal with the conflict.

of the local press during a meeting at the residence of Prince Hassan (Petra photo)

Prince Hassan warned against the escalation of hostilities in the Balkan region, adding that "all parties will lose" if the conflict is allowed to expand to other areas of the Balkans.

We have for years urged the establishment of an international "Zakat" fund that could have been used to help Muslims all over the world," the Crown Prince said. He said all Arabs and Muslims would have been more effective in extendion help to their co-religionists had this fund been set up.

Prince Hassan spoke of the renewed European interest in the western Mediterranean region and urged a pooling of efforts to improve the quality of life in the area.

'We are at a point when we either enter a new era of fighting or go forward with the serious political initiative to protect the well-being and dignity of the people," the Crown Prince said. During the meeting, the King and the Crown Prince addressed

inter-Arab relations, the peace process, the economic situation in the Kingdom and efforts to realise the economic dividend of

(Continued on page 7)

Senate endorses legislation ending boycott of Israel

Hindawi, Arabiyyat, Shoman vote against draft law

By Sa'eda Kilani Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Upper House of Parliament (the Senate) Monday endorsed a draft law that ends decadesold economic boycott of Israel, with 30 out of 33 senators present voting in favour of the legislation which was passed by the Lower House of Parliament on Wednesday.

The draft law is expected to be signed into-law by His Majesty King Hussein this week. When the law goes into effect, three laws that prohibit land sale and economic dealings with Israel will be eliminated.

The ratification of the draft law, which is in line with the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty that was signed in October last year, opens the door for the endorsement of investment-related legislation that is currently being reviewed by the Houses's Financial Committee.

The House endorsed the legislation on dealing with Israel with a 51 to 19 majority despite attempts by the Islamist-led opposition to

In Monday's Senate session Senators opposed to the legislation described it as a premature measure.

Senators Abdul Maguid Sboman, chairman of the minister and Abdul Latif

Arahiyyat, former speaker of the House said the draft law should be studied thoroughly and warned of serious implications on the country and its economy if the law was

"I believe that the ending

of the boycott (of Israel) would not have a positive effect on Jordanian companies and the Jordanian economy in general," said Mr. Shoman. "To endorse it at present is premature because I see that peace with Israel has not been completed yet, especially on the Syrian and Palestinian-Israeli tracks."

Mr. Shoman said that the decision to boycott Israel was taken hy the Arab League and thus should be rescinded hy the Arah League itself.

'I would like to remind my colleagues that Egypt, which took a (unilateral) decision to end the boycott of Israel, was itself boycotted by the Arab countries. Moreover, the economic situation in Egypt has not improved since," he

Senator Jawad Anani, former minister of information and senior delegate to the Jordanian-Israeli peace talks, said the draft law, after the introduction of amendments and their endorsement by the Lower House, is very well ba-

"The Lower House had succeeded in striking out a investment and securing the stability and safety of the

country," said Dr. Anani. The draft law should be viewed as part and parcel of the investment related leg-

Dr. Anani, who was also speaking on behalf of Senator Ma'an Abu Nawar, said that while the draft law provides solid safeguards against land sale to Israelis, the existing laws do not have the same safeguards in their provi-

In Israel, 93 per cent of the land is owned by the government and while the remaining seven per cent of the land in the Jewisb state is privately owned, its sale is restricted to Israeli nationals.

The amendments introduced to the draft legislation by the joint financial and judiciary committee of the House prohibit land sale to foreigners whose countries' legislation does not entail reciprocal action. The amendments also stipulate that land sale to foreigners cannot be carried out without the approval of the cahinet.

Former Prime Minister Senator Zeid Rifa'i criticised the inclusion of investment related provisions in a law for boycotting the enemy." He said another law that organises land sale and lease to foreigners should be issued separately.
"The government should

come up with one legislation

Croats and Serbs trade

artillery shells, rockets BEIRUT (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben SARAJEVO (AFP) - Serbs two towns and another too Shaker Monday delegated general has been placed in and Croats from both Bosnia Jordan's Amhassador in charge of retaking the area. and Croatia hattled Monday Beirut Fakhri Ahn Taleh to condole Lehanese Prime Minister Rafiq Al Hariri over the death of his mother, Hind

with artillery and rockets af-ter the failure of U.N. efforts to mediate an accord that could keep Bosnia's war from spilling into Croatia. Attempting to pressure breakaway Serbs holding

territory in Croatia, regular Croatian (HV) and Bosnian Croat (HVO) forces fired artillery and mortar shells against RSK (Krajina Serh) border villages on the weekend and Monday, Chris Yernon, a U.N. spokesman,

Mr. Vernon said the action was aimed at "consolidating" the Croats' positions and had not been followed through with infantry assaults.

Serh forces in Bosnia responded with a "violent" bombardment of Bosansko Grahovo and Glamoc, the two Serb towns in southwest Bosnia that fell to the Croats Friday wounding one Croat soldier and a civilian, an HVO official said.

The clasbes came as U.N. special envoy Yasushi Akashi said he was "pessimistic" of the chances of avoiding "a lot of bloodshed" in Croatia where there has been an uneasy peace for three years. In an unusual display of

cooperation to defuse tensions, Krajina Serbs pledged Sunday to withdraw troops from another part of Bosnia where they have conducted an offensive against Bosnian government troops defending the Bihac enclave-

Zagreh, fearing the fall of enclave to the Serbs, punched through Serb defences to take Grahovo wbich guards the backdoor to Knin, the capital of the self declared breakaway Serh state in Croatia.

The fall of Bihac would deal a serious blow to Croatian designs on regaining territory held by the Krajina Serbs and Zagreb has said it will intervene to prevent this happening.

Bosnian Serb army chief General Ratko Miadic vowed the Croats would "pay dearly" for their seizure of the

The Krajina Serb pledges followed a visit to Knin by Mr. Akashi. He returned with a six point "plan" which included U.N. monitoring of the border region and the Serb withdrawal. However, it was swiftly re-

jected by Croatia's President Franjo Tudiman. Mr. Akasbi's endeavours received another sethack Monday when a planned meeting berween the Krajina Serb and Croatian army chiefs was called off. U.N. officials said Monday

some Krajina Serb troops had left Bihac hut only "small groups" and no armour or vehicles had been seen leav-

Bosnian armed Forces accused the Serbs Monday of feigning withdrawal and launching another offensive on the Bihac enclave with their Bosnian Serh brethren, despite Sunday's accord. The Yugoslav Red Cross in

Belgrade reported some "20,000 Serbs" were displaced from the fighting though pre-war population figures for Glamoc and Grahovo amount to just over 6,000

Hundreds of Serbs though were on the move out of Knin leaving in cars and heading north according to a U.N. official in Zagreb.
Russia said Monday it may
call on the U.N. Security

Council to debate Croatia's role in the fighting in western A senior Foreign Ministry

official told Interfax News Agency Moscow was following developments in western Bosnia closely and "intends to take steps at the Security Council in the event of any deterioration of the situa-

In another diplomatic development, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati held talks Monday in the Croatian town of Split with Croatian and Bosnian counterparts Mate Granic and Mohammad Sacirbey.

A joint statement carried

on Bosnian radio said some "concrete decisions had heen reached on how Iran might help Bosnia to overcome difficulties and to successfully resist Serb aggression."

Iran among other Muslim countries has been vocal in itssupport for Bosnia's Muslim and is believed to have supplied weaponry and expertise to the Bosnian army.

Bosnian Serb forces have pulled out crack troops from Zepa the former U.N. safe area to fight elsewhere in Bosnia leaving the job of smoking out the remaining government defenders to reservists, a U.N. official said

Monday. The rotation in the enclave where Serb forces overran the town of Zepa on July 25 took place over the weekend, U.N. spokesman Alexander Ivanko said. "Why keep high quality troops in Zepa when you have problems elsewhere," asked Mr. Ivanko.

Meanwhile, NATO is making plans to respond to the fighting around the Bosnian enclave of Bihac but may not threaten massive air strikes as it did for Gorazde, U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry said Monday.

Alliance sources in Brussels said NATO's military committee had finalised plans for protecting Bihac town and the other remaining U.N. safe havens. NATO àmbassadors were to meet Tuesday or Wednesday to

give their approval. But Mr. Perry said before talks here with British De-fence Secretary Michael Portillo that the ultimatum for Bihac would not necessarily be the same as the one for Gorazde, under threat by separatist Serbs in eastern Bosnian.

"I would not want to simply say that the ultimatum with respect to Gorazde is the appropriate way of doing that," the U.S. defence chief The North Atlantic Treaty

Organisation (NATO) had

threatened the Serbs with

massive air strikes if they (Continued on page 3)

Israel, PLO work to narrow differences Israeli troops drag settlers off W. Bank hill

EILAT, Israel (R) — Israeli and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace-makers on Monday plunged deep into negotiations on expanding Palestinian self-rule into the West Bank, trying to narrow gaps on army redeployment, elections and wa-

ter rights. Chief Palestinian negotiator Ahmed Korei said "some slow, but steady progress" was achieved in talks at Israel's Red Sea Resort of Eilat on transfer of civil powers to the Palestinian Authority, one component of the complex talks.

He said both sides reviewed their positions on security matters.

"There was a presentation of both sides' final positions on security matters before

they move to formulations which will clarify each side's stand," Mr. Korei, also known as Abu Alaa, said at the Israeli Red Sea resort of

He said the gap on hasic principles remained but added the sides were showing great interest in achieving a breakthrough.

Talks on the much-delayed second stage of the 1993 PLO-Israel peace deal were suspended last week after an Islamic suicide bomber killed six Israelis near Tel Aviv.

The second stage - moving Israeli troops away from West Bank Palestinian population centres and holding Palestinian elections was to have taken place a year ago. Self-rule began in the Gaza Strip and the West

Bank town of Jericho in May

Israel bad agreed to pull out its forces from six West Bank towns, but insists on keeping troops in Hebron and in many villages that are close to Jewisb settlements. Negotiators had said be-

fore Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin suspended the talks that there were 10 points of contention, including security arrangements in Palestinian villages and control of West Bank water resources.

Israel and the PLO are also at odds over where East Jerusalem's 160,000 Palestinians would vote in the elections and on who has the right to water resources in the West Bank.

Mr. Korei said delegates worked late into the night on

One negotiator said there were signs of progress on security arrangements in some Palestinian areas, hut he gave no details. A Palestinian delegate.

who declined to be identified, said: "Both sides brought compromise formulas and are now drafting agreed points but it will take weeks to conclude an agreement."

He said the Israeli side. agreed on Monday to discuss water rights, which it earlier refused to do. But he said that does not mean Israel was ready to acknowledge Palestinian rights.

On Saturday, Israel nego-tiator Uri Savir told Israel Television air accord would

(Continued on page 3)

Israel issues warrant for Abu Marzuk

TEL AVIV (Agencies) ~ An Israeli court on Monday issued an arrest warrant against Hamas official Musa Ahu Marzuk, the first legal step towards submitting a request for his extradition from the United States, Justice

Minister David Libai said. The charges against Mr. Abu Marzuk included conspiracy to commit murder and to commit manslaughter and conspiracy to inflict ininry and grievous bodily harm, a ministry statement

"In the request, the state attorney's office indicated that it intended to appeal, witbout delay, to United States' authorities, and request that Abu Marzuk be temporarily detained until a request for his extradition can he submitted," the statement said.

said.

The U.S. government said on Thursday it had arrested Musa Abu Marzuk, a political leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, after it found his name on the so-called "watch list" of aliens not allowed to enter the United States.

Mr. Libai said Israel had "intelligence information"

that Mr. Abu Marzuk was responsible for fundraising for Hamas as well as for drafting and training people for attacks "including mnr-der." He said it was difficult to translate Intelligence into evidence.

Hamas leads violent opposition to the Israel-PLO peace deal. Its militants have killed scores of Israelis in suicide attacks since the 1993 accord, including six killed last week. Foreign Minister Shimon

Peres said Israel's decision to

pursue the extradition sent a

message to groups like Hamas. "The message is Israel is not afraid, it is determined to fight terrorism, to fight terrorist groups and their leaders, without mercy or hesita-

tion," he told Israel's Army Radio. In Gaza Strip, self-rule enclave, the Palestinian news agency Wafa quoted PLO head Yasser Arafat's aide Marwan Kanafani as saying: "Israel's insistence on escalating the situation by officially demanding to hand over brother Musa Abu Mar-

zuk at this particular time is

not understandable."

Imad Al Falouji, a Hamas leader in Gaza, told Reuters: The United States should think deeply not only about handing him over to Israel. hut even about his arrest because this does not serve or contribute to stability in the

"Hamas is using all the diplomatic, peaceful ways to put pressure on the United States to release Abu Mar-

Mr. Abu Marzuk's U.S. lawyer Stanley Cohen told the radio in a telephone interview: "Now it will be up to Israel to prove to the world that they have a case. We don't believe that they can, we don't believe that they

Mr. Abu Marzuk, an alien resident with a "green card" allowing him to live and work in the United States, is originally from the Gaza Strip. Mr. Kanafani had earlier said the Palestinian self-rule authority was ready to give bim

a home in Gaza, Mr. Libai said that according to the U.S.-Israel extradition treaty, made in the 1960s, someone could be extradited only if there was proof he or she carried out asked.

one of the crimes listed in the

"Terrorist activities and heading a terrorist organisation" were not on the list. Hamas warned Washing-ton on Monday that it will face "military operations" if Mr. Abu Marzuk is extra-

The justice minister said

dited to Israel. "The detention of Abu Marzuk in an Israeli prison would push Hamas to take a firmer line and would incite the military branch of the movement to carry out military operations against Israel and American interests," warned Ghazi Hamad, a senior Hamas official in

Mr. Hamad pointed out that since Israel arrested Hamas founder and spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmad Yassin in 1989, the movement had stepped up attacks on Israel "to apply pressure for his

release. "How can the United States extradite him (Abu Marzuk) to Israel if they themselves do not have any proof to sentence him or even hring him before an American conrt? Mr. Hamad

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5 years on, Iraqis would like to forget Gulf war

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — A brozne statue of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein greets visitors to the Saddam Tower, a 203 metre (666 feet) high edifice that is a reminder not only of who's in charge but also of a war that many Iraqis would like to forget.

At the foot of the statue are fragments of the "Smart" laser-guided bombs dropped by allied planes in the 1991 Gulf war to demolish a skyscraper and communications centre that originally occupied the site.

Today it is a source of pride to Iraqis that hardly a trace remains in Baghdad of the huge damage the allied air and missile attacks inflicted on the city during the U.S.-led multinational campaign to drive Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

But otherwise most Iragis. their lives made desperately hard by U.N. sanctions imposed because of the Kuwaiti adventure. have little to brag

The invasion of the oil-rich neighbour to the south five years ago this week is now viewed as part of history that few people like to talk about.

Even the official press, which on previous anniversaries paid tribute to the events of Aug. 2 — termed Yaum Al Nida (The Day of the Calling) - has been silent this year.

"For me it is something of the past. I have already turned my back on it," said a university professor. "We want to know what will happen tomorrow." Iraqis realise they have paid dearly for their capture of Kuwait and turning it into what was called Iraq's 19th

U.N. sanctions have caused economic havoc, driving prices to levels beyond the reach of most of the population.

The government newspaper Al Jumhouriya said last week the sanctions had killed more than one million Iraqis. At traffic junctions in

Baghdad, emaciated mothers with children trailing behind knock at car windows asking for money. For many Iraqis Kuwait is

the cause of their wretchedness — but there are few calls for vengeance. "We have no scores to

settle. We are poor people. We wait for the day oil flows again and hear our president is doing his best," said an old

Even the government in Baghdad would like to turn a new page. Several overtures to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have been made this year. They have gone unheeded,

but Baghdad, though aware that the scars from its invasion of Kuwait need more time to heal, has not given up

It has encouraged contacts with Qatar and Oman, two of the Gulf states that joined the United States and its allies in pushing Iraq out of Kuwait.

Allied fears were raised once again last October when Baghdad massed troops close

to Kuwait's borders in what looked for a few days like a replay of August, 1990.

But, following a quick response from the United States and its allies, Iraq backed down and instead began what amounted to a charm offensive.

Iraq formally recognised Kuwait as an independent state. Baghdad also erased from school textbooks references to Kuwait as part of

Iraq.
"We are now holding out an olive branch. We hope our Arab neighbours (Kuwait and Saudi Arabia) will have the courage to forget the said an Iraqi journal-

Kuwaiti songs and music are now in vogue in Iraq, and Iraqis travelling abroad have no hesitation in meeting Kuwaiti friends.

"I think there is more that binds us than separates. In Jordan, I and my favourite Kuwaiti singer — of course I am not going to give you his name — sang together in a theatre in Amman," said a well-known Iraqi composer.

"I think the Iraqis would welcome a Kuwaiti delega-tion in Baghdad now. The thing is, when will the Kuwaitis be willing to take such a step?" asked a Western diplomat.

"If they wait until the regime here goes, I believe they will have to wait for a very, very long time," he added.

Five years after its invasion and seven-month occupation of Kuwait, Iraq is still inflicting pain by refusing to shed light on 605 missing people, officials here say.
"They know that this hurts

the Kuwaitis most. It's a pain they want to enjoy," according to Dwaij Al Anzi, direc-tor of the National Committee for Prisoners of War and

The fate of the missing is the main obstacle to normalisation between Kuwait and Iraq as it weights far more heavily on people's minds than that of stolen property and war reparations, which nonetheless infuriates them.

A pile of hundreds of destroyed buses and trucks in Mutella, near the desert border shows Iraq has returned many of the goods it plundered after it invaded Kuwait.

The vehicles were returned several weeks ago, according to the spokesman of the United Nations Iraq Kuwait Observer Mission, Salim Fahmawi, who spoke at UN-IKOM headquarters at Khor Abdallah.

Earlier this month Iraq announced the return of three coast guard ships, but "they just gave us the official at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry, said.

Baghdad has also returned

I20 armoured troops carriers jailed by Israel. but the serial numbers proved that they were taken from the Iranians during the 1980-1988 war between those two countries, he added.



NEW SETTLEMENT; Israeli settlers start the construction of a new house over the "Givat Hadagan" hill, south of Bethlehem, where hundreds of them gathered to build a new neighbourhood against the Israeli army evacuation order.

The 130,000 settlers who fear that the next stage of autonomy will expose them to more attacks from Pales extremists, aim at deraifing the peace deal with the PLO

missing Israeli airman Hizbollah 'is not holding'

bollah guerrilla group said it was not holding missing Israeli airman Ron Arad, and it also vowed to secure the release of 250 Lebanese

"Israel cares only for one soldier, Israeli pilot Roo Arad, whom we are not holding and whose whereabouts or kidnappers we don't know," Sheikh Naim Kas-sem, Hizboliah's deputy secretary general, said in re-marks published Monday by the Arabic oewspaper Al Havat, based in Loodon. Arad was captured in 1986

after his Phantom F-4 fighterbomber was shot down during an air raid in South Leba-Israel contends it has in-

by Shi'ite Muslim guerrillas

formation that Arad is still alive and is believed to be in Iranian hands. However, the Iranian government and Hizbollah, which is backed by Iran, have repeatedly denied

Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bweiz said receotly that his government does not have accurate information on whether Arad is dead or Arad was believed cap-tured by the Amal militia, a Shi'ite group backed by Syria. However, be was reportedly handed over to an Iranian Revolutionary Guard contingent based in eastern Lebanon in return for

Meanwhile, Sheikh Kassem said there were "real difficulties" in securing the freedom of Lebanese prisoners held in a detentioo centre in Israel and in the Israelioccupied zone in South Lebaand media contacts to secure their release," he said.

Israel this year released. some Lebanese prisoners from the Khiam Detention Centre in the border enclave Israel calls a "security zone." About 250 are still held, accused of aiding anti-Israeli guerrillas.

Hizbollah, or Party of God, bas beeo spearheading a guerrilla war to dislodge Israel from the enclave established in 1985 as a buffer against cross-border attacks. on northern Israeli towns.

Iraqi exiles ask: Is it really all Saddam's fault?

A nation of enormous potential, Iraq's immense problems have often been blamed on one man: Saddam Hussein. But Iraqi exiles say he survives in power five years after he invaded Kuwait because enough Iraqis still support him, or are unwilling to

> By Jerome Socolovsky The Associated Press

LONDON - "As thou art, shalt thou be ruled." The admonition of 7th century Islamic leader Imam Ali to his early Muslim followers haunts modern-day Iraqis who have fled the rule of Saddam Hussein.

But now, 16 years after Saddam seized power, Iraqi exiles philosopher-warrior: they are recognising that Saddam's rule has depended not only on his brutality, but also on the submissiveness and even active support from many of his

'Saddam is not something that came out of nowhere," said Salem Chalabi, a lawyer who was co-author of a plan to put Iraqi leaders before a U.N. war crimes tribunal. "Saddam is a

product of Iraqi society."

Indeed, despite numerous attempts to overthrow him, Saddam has maintained enough support among Iraq's 18 million people to survive the five years since his ill-fated invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990.

Since he became president in 1979, his regime has wiped

out entire Kurdish villages with poison gas, deported tens of thousands of Iraqis of Persian origin and tortured and executed dissidents.

This has generated plenty of opposition, to be sure. An estimated 2 million Iragis - more than I0 per cent of the population — have fled the country to escape Saddam's reign. Others have paid a heavy price for resisting inside the country, including Shi'ite Muslims in the south. Kurds in the north, and even Saddam's fellow Sunni Muslims.

But since he stated wielding considerable power behind the scenes in the early 1970s. Saddam has won and held the support of a broad cross-section of people - academics. scientists, tribal chiefs, factory workers.

"During these 25 years, a lot of individuals have benefited from Saddam Hussein." said Latif Rachid, a spokesman for a Kurdish rebel group. "They have become rich. They have become powerful." Even some Kurds were lored to Saddam's side, Mr. Rachid

Saddam has used Iraq's oil money to dispense patronage on a wide scale, which has been an effective means of maintaining

Exiles say the regime's main collaborators can be found among the estimated 1.5 million members of Saddam's Arab Socialist Resurrection Party, or "Baath" in Arabic. Many of those who joined were simply cowards, charges

author Kanan Makiya, whose 1988 book, Republic Of Fear, described the party's strongarm methods.

If an Iraqi wanted a scholarship or a promotion, he or she could win it by informing on friends or relatives, Makiya asserted in an interview in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

That created "mountains and mountains of paperwork whose sole purpose is to make larger and larger numbers of people accomplices in the criminality of the regime," he said. Saddam also played to widespread feelings of Iraqi chauvinism. When he launched a war against Iran in 1980 and when he invaded Kuwait in 1990, many Iraqis cheered.

"Iraqis thought they were the best Arabs," said Mir Basri, a bistorian and former head of the small Jewish community in

In the 1980s, when Saddam started deporting people of without years; critics of the Iraqi leader blamed him almost Persian origin, "very few people said, this is wrong," said.

Hani Al Fkeiki, a one-time Saddam ally. "On the contrary, they would go and occupy his house or steal the contents."

And vast oil wealth.

Mr. Fkeiki, who took part in the 1963 coup that installed the Baath Party, cited a series of television appearances in the

In exchange for sinecures and other favours, they went on camera and gave ringing endorsements of Saddam, then the regime's No. 2 man, only to curse him later behind his back,

"Nobody asked them to do this," he said. "They helped the dictatorship. They knew Saddam Hussem and they knew what

he would do with the country. A large number of exiles still reject any notion of collective responsibility, and hold Saddam solely to blame. But this view

is increasingly challenged, even inside Iraq. One hotly debated theory at present, about an Iraqi "split personality," was actually formulated in the 1950s by Ali Wardi, a sociologist at the University of Baghdad who died in

early July.
"We must not forget that a lot of us are superficially civilised." but deep inside us we are still bedouins or semi-bedouins. Mr. Wardi said in his six-volume work, which was republished in London in 1992 by popular demand among exiles.

Shortly before his death, a state-run newspaper in Baghdad, where Mr. Wardi lived, chastised the 82-year-old professor for continuing to stress the role in Iraqi society of bedouin values such as self-interest, blood ties and deference of strong chiefs. Finger-pointing for Iraq's woes is a touchy subject these days, with nearly all Iraqis suffering from U.N. sactions

imposed after the Kuwait invasion. According to the United Nations, one in five Iraqis goes to bed hungry every night even though food imports are exempt from the sanctions. Saddam has repeatedly rejected a proposal that would let Iraq export oil under U.N. supervision to pay for food and medicine.

not be punished for the misdeeds of their leaders, who continue to live comfortably, if not luxuriously. "No Iraqi with a clear conscience can support sanctions,"

Opponents of sanctions argue that ordinary Iraqis should

said Sherif Ali Ibn Hussein, would-be king and cousin of former King Faisal II, who was overthrown in a bloody 1958 However, he added, "It is Saddam Hussein who is applying

Mubarak moves to end threat by Islamic opposition By Anthony Shadid Brotberhood, Egypt's The Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) - In a sweeping crackdown on a powerful but non-yiolent Muslim group, the govern-ment has made clear its vision of the future! Islamic rûle will not be imposed in Egypt, even by peaceful

Whether that vision is viable is by no means certain. Nearly all Arab states in the past decade have used repression to try to crush Islamic opposition. At best, the result bas been simmering discontent; at worst, full-blown civil war.

For Egypt, President Hosni Mubarak's all-ornothing gambit will likely be a turning point after 14 years io power. It sends a signal to other Mideast nations - and the United States, Egypt's main patron - that one of the region's most powerful states will no longer tolerate serious opposition from even nonviolent Islamic groups.

"The government is trying to say we really mean business," said Mohammad Sid Ahmad, a leftist columnist and political commentator. "There is a beginning of a crack-down vis-a-vis the Islamic trend in general and the moderates in particular."

On Friday, police rounded up 200 Muslim Brotherhood activists in two cities. It was the sharpest escalation in the government's campaign against the

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

largest Islamic organisation, with perhaps one million supporters. The group, which envisions the creation of an

Eslamio state through " democratic means, is technically illegal but has been allowed to operate openly and even compete in elec-Some viewed the Brotherhood as an alterna-

tive to Muslim extremists fighting to overthrow Mr. Mubarak and imposed Islamic rule. More than 780 people, most of them militants and police, have died in three years of rebellion. .But since January, the government has accused the Brotherhood of forging

NEWS ANALYSIS

tics with the extremists. The crackdown reveals Mr. Mubarak's decision to forgo the possibility of compromise with mainstream slamic opponents.

It also shows the government considers the Brotherhood strong enough to pose a threat. It may hope to discredit the group before this fall's parliamentary elections. But there's a potential

for a backlash. Commentators warned the crackdown would strengthen the hand of Islamists, both violent and non-violent, by closing off any other avenue of opposition. "If there is no lawful way

to change, the people have to disobey the government and we think that there is now a real discooteot among people toward the government," said Magdi Hossein, editor of Al Shaab, an Islamic-oriented " newspaper.

rounds up suspected militants, particularly in the wake of assassinations or attacks in southern Egypt. But Friday's sweep came without warning, and was one of the biggest singleday roundups since 1981, when President Anwar Sadat arrested more than 1.500 Islamists and mainstream opponents, including politicians, journalists, teachers and lawyers.

Sadat's purge was a desperate move to forestall growing Islamic militancy. disenchantment with his dictatorial style and the 1979 peace treaty with Israel. That reseotment led to his assassination by Muslim militants. Mr. Mubarak also faces disenchantment. An initial

outpouring of relief after he escaped an assassination attempt in June in Ethiopia has dissipated, in part due to a media blitz of Mr. Mubarak's speeches and patriotic programming. Economic problems remain. One in five Egyp-

tians is unemployed and per capita incomes have declined since Mr. Mubarak came to power in 1981. ernment fails to inspire

More generally, the gov-

confidence. Unlike his larger-than-

life predecessors — Sadat and charlsmatic President Gamai Abdul Nasser — the taciturn Mubarak eschews the dramatic for the te-dious. He promises reform — in due time: The government often ... In a telliog example of

the popularity the government craves, state-owned oewspapers and magazines bave published pictures of. the young Mubarak greating Nasser, still revered by the country's downtrod-A new film chronicling

Nasser's nationalisation of the Suez Canal in 1956 will soon appear on state television, breaking a taboo oo dramatising the lives of past Egyptian leaders.

But it's doubtful the gov-

ernment can successfully. mine the strong current of Nasserism. More likely, the government will bave to face a changing Islamic movement on its own terms.

In a worst-case scenario, the crackdown could force more moderate Islamic elements into the camp of Muslim militants. It could also create divisions within the Brotherhood itself. which must search for a They will probably split

between a trend that will try to explaina to the government that they are mistaken and a more radical trend that will say we have to strike back," Mr. Sid Ahmad said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

PPACE	RAMME TWO
	Captain Planet
14:30	Mantis
	Road to Avenica
	Families
17:00	Spirou
17:30	Montagne
	Taratara
	News in French
	Faul Pa Rever
17:30	News Headlines
	You Be Your Life
20:00	Piglet Files
	The Bold and the Beautiful
21:15	Urban Angel
22:00	News in English
22:25	Death of Apartheid
23:30	New York Undercover
	Keeping Up Appearance
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CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth	Chur
Sweifich, Tcl. 810740	b. To

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Annunciation Tel.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Hot and dry weather conditions will prevail with winds northwesterlight to moderate. In Agaha. eds will be northerly moderate

Terrasuncia Church Tel: 622366 Church of the Annunciation Tel. an Church Tel. 630851, Tel.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church Tel. 652526.

WEATHER

Min/Max. temp.

ian Catholic Church Tel.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932 Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691. Church of Nazarene Tel.675691. The Evangelical Local Church in Tel. 81)295.

Bulletin supplied by the Depart-

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 36, Aqaba 40, Humidity

..... 27 / 42

dan Orthodox Church Tel.

readings: Amman 24 per cent. Aqaba 25 per cent. USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS **NIGHT DUTY**

AMMAN:	
Dr. Yousef Al Faqih	7569%8
Dr. Arafat Al Ashbah	6025117
Dr. Mukhles Halasa	819220
Or. Khalil Al Tusluq	757253
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asema pharmacy	637055
Nairoukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	. 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660
Nairoukh pharmacy	623672
Najib pharmacy	817637
salie biraniera	
IRBID:	
Dr. Ahmad Qanu	
Alquds pharmacy	(-)

Dr. Akram Haddad 985550

Food Control Centre 637111

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Immediate Highway Police Traffic Police Water and Sewerage 897467 78711L Repairs 623101 Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101 ... 774111 Radio Jordan Electric Power

HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6 Akilch Maternity, J. Amn.

•	642441/2
Jabal Amman Malemity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	
Shmeisani Hospital	
University Hospital	
Al-Muasher Hospital	
The Islamic, Abdal	
Al-Ahli, Abdali	
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich	775111/26
Army. Marka	
Queen Alia Hospital	
Amal Hospital	607155
The Arah Centre for H	cen and

Special Surgery 865199 ZARQA: Zarqa Govi. Hospital (09)983323 Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560 Ibn Sina Hospital (D9)486732 Al Hikma Modern Hospital (D9)99090 Princess Basma Hospital .. . (02)275555 Greck Catholic Hospital

The Al Nalces Hospital (02)247100

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA

INTERNATIONAL

AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Oueen Alia In-ternational Airport Tel. (IR)53281-5, where it should always be veri-ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ)

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08:00	Oamascus
10:15	Abu Dhahi. Al 'Ain (i
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	Muscal, Dubai (
10:5B	Doha, Bahrain I
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17:50	London (i
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02:20	Madrid (i

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:20	Vienna (OS)
NO-45	Cairo (MS)
13:40	Ahn Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
14:00	Munich (YP)
14:00	Riyadh (SV)
14-20	KOMC (AL)
31-00	Aden (DY)

21:10 Beirut LME\ 23:20 Amsterdam (KL) 90:55 Bucharest | RO1 DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ)

QR:00	····· Aqaba (R.
09:40	msterdam, New York IR
12:00	Montreal, Toronto IRJ
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13:10	Carro Alam Paris (RJ
14-05	Cairo, Alexandria (R.
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MIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN 8:00 every

Arr. namascas
5:00 p.m. every Monday Dep. Damascus
7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday
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MARKET PRICES

Camillowel	300/200
Cucumbers (large)	150 / 100
Cucumbers Ismaili	220 / 100
Egenlant	270 / 100
Eggplant	180 IO
Garlic	. 650/500
Ciabes	240/240~
COMPINE THE PROPERTY OF THE PR	AGN / GNA
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DISCUSS

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Rifa'i said. " shock to fo who seek to property to should abide economic b enemy.

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the sides were Meanwhile, on Monday dr and destroyed

settlers, who of Palestinian West Bank, pl mouse game u rocky biliside

> TWO FUI The first is apartment, sitting and c a garage. floor apartn room, living has separa large kitcher Pleas



at the next stage stacks from Palesini

Ye are making pot. media contacts to release." he said zel this year rely

(Petra photo)

JORDANIANS WILL be

able 10 obtain tourist visas at

the Israeli Embassy in

Amman as of mid-August,

rather than have to wait to

obtain them at the border,

according to an agreement

Jordanian and Israeli offi-

cials reached the agreement during a meeting called due

to major bottlenecks at the

Jordan River horder crossing, near Kibbutz Maoz

Haim, that have occurred

According to Menahem

Zelichovsky, director of the

border crossings for the Air-

Israeli tourists visitiog Jor-

as to the Kingdon

Senate endorses legislation

dan will continue obtaining

through their tour compa-

The meeting, held at the

border crossing, was attend-

ed by senior Israel police,

customs, and airports

authority officials and their

Jordanian counterparts.

-(Continued from page 1)

sions related to land sale and

lease to foreigners," Mr.

Rifa'i said. "It would be a

shock to foreign investors

who seek to own or rent

property to learn that they

should abide by a law on

economic boycott of the

Ben Shaker said a special

committee from the con-

cerned departments has

already been formed to study

all laws related to land sale or

lease to foreigners. He said

that a law that tackles the

issue from all its aspects will

be produced for this purpose.

(Continued from page 1)

have to be concluded in Au-

gust if Palestinian elections

were to be held this year.

Mr. Savir said he did not

know how long negotiations would take but said he felt

the sides were close to sign-

Meanwhile, Israeli forces

on Monday dragged scores of

Jewish settlers down from a

disputed West Bank hilltop

and destroyed their tent site

there, witnesses and Israeli

settlers, who are protesting

against the imminent spread

of Palestinian self-rule in the

West Bank, played a cat-and-

mouse game up and down the

rocky hillside for most of the

Witnesses said police and

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid

over the past few weeks.

reached Sunday.

e Lebanese proset the Khiam Deer the in the border of al calls a "security as ut 250 are still hek d of aiding anth

izbollah, or p_{ar}, i, has been speared nerrilia war to & el from the enclaves ed in 1985 was inst cross-perger z northern Israeli in

Inlike his largers predecessors -1charism-tic Re mai Abdul Naseriturn. Mubacak est dramatte for de us. He promisens in due time.

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A new film throat sser's nationalisate : Suez Canal in 1950 on appear on state at n, breaking a wow amatising the jire st Egyptian lexen Bur it's doubituitie ament tan succession ne the strong cures asserism Morelisch. vernment will be: ce a changing like ovement in use

in a worst-use see e crackcomp could be ore moderate islame ents into the am uslim mintants, li a to create divisions of e Brotherhood is nich must seine fi sponse.
They will probably tress i tell int. to explaine to me nment that they are ken and a more of

and that will say well strike back. Mi

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reaches representation representatio

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Israel, PLO to narrow differences of them go. Some settlers climbed back up to the top of the hill and were brought

down again. "That's four times they dragged me down. I grew up in the 1950s and I know the power of civil disobedience," said Yossi Baumol from the nearby Efrat settlement.

The setting up of the tent site at Al Khader is the latest move by Jewish settlers, who oppose the Israeli govern-ment's talks with the PLO to expand self-rule in the West Bank and are trying to undermine them, saying the area is the Jews' Biblical heritage.

In recent weeks they have symbolically expanded settlements and huilt roads, testing a government that is committed both to handing over areas of the West Bank to the Palestinians and to ensuring

day.
Police pulled protesters from the hilltop, sometimes the safety of 100,000 settlers over rocks, but then let many who live amongst them,

TWO FURNISHED APARTMENTS FOR RENT The first is a 200 square metres, separate ground floor

apartment, consisting of two bedrooms, guest room, sitting and dining area, glassed-in veranda, garden, and a garage. The second is a 220 square metre second floor apartment, consisting of three hedrooms, guest room, living room, glassed-in halcony, Each apartment has separate central heating, telephone, maid room,

large kitchen, and deluxe fumiture, Please call Tel. 665711 and 664256

Sudanese interior minister arrives for talks on cooperative ventures

Sudanese Minister of Interior Tayeh Ibrahim Kheir, who arrived here early Monday for a two-day visit opened talks with his Jordanian counterpart, Salameh Hammad, on promoting Jordanian-Sudanese cooperation in security and civil defence fields and in matters related to the work of interior ministries in both countries.

Mr. Kheir said that Sudan would like to cooperate with the Kingdom in security matters and in training personnel in civil defence and police work.

Mr. Hammad was quoted as saying that Jordan was willing to extend assistance in those areas to Sudan.

The Sudanese minister, who visited the interior ministry's information centre, was briefed on the operational system of the ministry's departments.

Mr. Kheir said that while in Jordan he aims to familiarise himself with the interior ministry's administrative systems, training programmes as well as the operations of the Public Security and Civil Defence departments for possible assimila-



Minister of Interior Salameh Hammad Monday escorts visiting Sudanese Minister of Interior Tayeb Ihrahim Kheir through the ministry's information centre (Petra photo)

rion in Sudan.

The Sudanese official later visited the Public Security Department (PSD) and met its director, Lieutenant Gen-

eral Abdul Rahman Adwan and senior assistants.

He was briefed on police organisation and operations in the country and PSD contributions to United Nations peacekeeping deployed in several regions around the world,

ment and heard about procedures in dealing with traffic accidents, crimes and the Mr. Kheir inspected severtraining of police cadres.

Government launches new drive to curb influx of foreign labourers

By Saad Hattar Agence France Press

AMMAN - With unemployment rates of up to 18.8 per cent, Jordan has launched a drive to curb the influx of foreign labourers, who already number

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Tuesday set up a five-minister panel tasked with "regulating the employment of foreign labourers," especially those from Egypt and Syria.

"While we welcome any Arab national to work in the Kingdom, we also have a rather limited capacity, Minister of Labour Nader Abu Sha'ar told AFP.

"Our market is quite saturated and we can take no more," Mr. Abu Sha'ar said. Jordan's workforce is estimated at 856,000 out of a population of four million

people, according to official figures. Some 160,000 are unemployed.

Unemployment soared dramatically in the wake of the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis, which prompted the return of 350,000 Jordanian expatriates working in Kuwait and other Gulf states.

Mr. Abu Sha'ar said 42.000 labourers from Arab countries had Jordanian work permits. Independent

indicate that at least another 210,000 foreigners, mostly Egyptians, are working illegally in jobs which could be filled by Jordanians.

Officials say nearly 1,000 Egyptians enter the Kingdom daily, in addition to an unknown number of Syri-

Most of them end up flooding the labour market. Jordan has launched sev-



Nader Abu Sha'ar

eral fruitless campaigns 10 cut down foreign labour in the past, but the latest drive more wide-ranging because it involves five related ministries, notably the Ministry of Interior

which monitors border posts

and airports. The campaign also coin-

of a new labour code that gives priority to Jordanian "Employers should not opt to hire foreign labourers

cides with the introduction

unless in special cases with official permits," the newlabour code stipulates. After Jordanians, Arab labourers take priority over other foreigners, provided

they work in sectors short of

local manpower like agriculture and construction. But employers tend to hire, Egyptians who are reputed to accept lower wages than their Jordanian coonterparts

and are ready to work more hours. The standard of wages is linked to the market mechanism, as well as to the actions of employers." Mr.

Abu Sha'ar said. "The ball is

now in the court of busi-

The minister stressed the campaign had no political motives. "On the contrary, our bilateral protocol with Egypt bars any Egyptian from

al branches of the depart-

working in Jordan without a work permit," he said. He stressed Amman would not resort "to collective deportation as foreign labourers will be given a

three-month grace period to adjust to regulations." But all those caught without work permits after the deadline will be fined and

immediately deported, he added. Burdened by a foreign deht of around \$6.5 billion, Jordan introduced a five-

year economic plan in Sept. 1993 which was aimed at slashing the unemployment rate to nine per cent by 1997 hy creating 224,000 new

PSD warns car rental offices to observe price regulations

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Monday cautioned rent-a-car offices in Jordan to follow car rental regulanions especially in cases in which young drivers and tourists are concerned.

Addressing a meeting of owners of car rental agen-Major General Ibrahim Saraireh, assistant to the PSD director for traffic affairs, said that some agencies have rented cars to young people for higher rates than those allowed under the regulations, and some hiked the rates when renting cars to tourists.

He also complained that some car rental establishments do not properly maintain their vehicles, and some have not returned their clients' passports when the cars are returned to the

According to Major General Saraireb, these establishments are violating regu-

lations set by the PSD. He said a client should be asked to provide a photocopy of his/her passport and should be charged the rates supulated in the PSD regulations. According to employees at Rawan Rent-a-Car office in Amman, Jordan has 150 car rental offices - at least 135 are concentrated in the capital.

The employees told the Jordan Times that their office charges a rental fee of JD 20 to JD 27 per day for a car, provided the client travels no more than 100 kilometres per day. They said that some

offices they know of have been charging higher rates on car rentals to young people to serve as a guarantee on possible damage.

Jordanians were only permitted to rent cars in the Kingdom after March 1991. Prior to that car rental agencies could only serve non-Jordanians.

The Spanish Embassy in Amman

has the pleasure to announce that within the activities of the Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts

THE WORLD FAMOUS FLAMENCO DANCE **26-MEMBER GROUP FROM CADIZ**

"AL-ANDALUS"

will perform at the South Theatre / Jerash August 1st and 2nd 1995 at 8:30 p.m.

trade relations with Jordan, the situation has become intolerable, with waits of six hours and more in the hot

Last week, Mr. Mahool On other days, hours will said he saw a number of people faint because of the be extended, and will be heat. Those lining up to go through the Israel police from 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. The two sides also agreed checkpoint had to wait in the that the Jordanians are to add a second shuttle bus. sun and those who went to There are already two Israeli stand in the shade lost their

DISCUSSING WATER ISSUES: Prime Minister Sharif Zeld Ben Shaker Monday

receives in his office visiting Sudanese Minister of Water and Irrigation Yaqoub Abu

Shora. The two officials reviewed cooperation in water related fields between Jordan and Sudan. Following the meeting Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irsheidat.

who accompanied Mr. Abu Shora to the prime ministry, said agreement was reached

in the talks for working out a new mechanism for cooperation which would update a

former agreement between Khartonm and Amman. Under the new accord the two

countries will exchange expertise and water related research and studies. Sudan has

been seeking Jordanian expertise in searching for underground water resources

'Israel to issue visas through embassy'

In addition, from Septem-

ber 1, the King Hussein

Bridge crossing, which until

now has been closed on Fri-

day and Saturday, is to be

open on those days from 8

a.m. to 6 p.m.

cold drinks available.

border crossing.

minister said.

nationalities.

The new draft law will be

submitted to the house for

endorsement, the prime

Senator Thougan Hindawi,

who also spoke on behalf of

Senators Marwan Hmoud

and Oaseem Obeidat, said

that the issue of dual

nationality holders was not

tackled in the draft law. He

proposed an amendment to.

article six of the legislation

with view to ensuring more

protection against land sale

to Israelis who have double

Senator Jawdat Sboul, for-

mer interior minister, coun-

tered by saying that the draft

law prohibits any holder of

shuttle buses in operation. place in line, he said. The delay was caused, he The Israeli authorities also undertook to set up shaded explained, because each Jordanian entering had to be areas for the Jordanian visitors waiting to be checked. issued a visa, a procedure ports Authority, the new sys- 10 provide 200 chairs for tem is to go into effect on them; and to make hot and that takes a great deal of

Mr. Mahool, who has been Meanwhile, Israelis organising groops to the returning from Jordan, as Jerash Festival, also said Jordanians entering Israel, to insist on a maximum of will all apparently have to 300 tourists from Israel a put up with another two day at the crossing, thus weeks of bottlenecks at the making it impossible for all those who want to attend the According to Makram festival to do so.

Khoury Mahool, director of Jaffa Communications, a The Jerusalem Post

dual nationality from owning

land in Jordan if his/her first

or second nationality is

Israeli. He said that even if a

foreigner purchased land in

Jordan and was later disco-

vered to have dual national-

ity, one of which is Israeli,

then the lease or sale contract

will be considered null and

void in accordance with the

been under thorough study

hy deputies, experts, senators

and ministers, provides solid

safeguards against future ex-

ploitation," said Mr. Shoul,

the rapporteur of the Sen-

ate's joint financial and

judiciary committee, which

Even as police dragged

away settlers from one bill-

top, settler spokesman Ahar-

studied the draft law.

"The draft law, which has

Croats,

But NATO members such and Croatia, and Croats.

with Gorazde where the lines were clear cut," Mr. Portillo told reporters after his talks

on Domh said about 60 had set up camp on a nearby hill. Doctors and ambutances stood by hut there were no reports of serious injuries. all safe areas seriously."

Serbs clash

moved on Gorazde, one of the four remaining U.N.declared safe areas along with Bihac, Sarajevo and

as France have insisted that Bihac was a different matter, embroiling six different groups, including Bosnian government forces, Muslimrebels, Serbs from Bosnia

(Continued from page 1)

"Bihac is not comparable

with Mr. Perry. The British official did not

specify what action NATO envisioned taking around Bihac, but said. "We all agree that Serbs should be in no doubt that we are taking

Heat wave to last until Wednesday

said, daytime highs could reach 42° C.

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Department of Meteorology Monday said the current heat wave is expected to continue until Wednesday evening. A department spokesman told the Jordan Times that the high temperatures will be accompanied hy dry, hot winds which exacerbase the conditions further The average temperature in Jordan for this time of year is 32° C - temperatures over the next two days are expected to his 37° C, the meteorologist said. Nightime temperatures

could be expected to drop to 22° C. In the Jordan Valley, be

NEWS IN BRIEF

More computers in to be installed in schools AMMAN (J.T.) - The Ministry of Education plans to install 864 additional computers in Ill of its schools around the country in the coming year. The country's public schools were equipped with 4,531 computers in 488 schools last year. The ministry is gradually fulfilling a plan to offer

all 10th grade students with computer courses, according to

WHAT'S GOING ON

JERASH FESTIVAL Darat Al Funun, 7:00-9:00p.m.

*Concert by Bashar and Ayman Zarqan of Syria at Artimes Steps at 9:00 p.m.

Play (in Arabic) entitled "The Digger and the Blind Prostitute" at Gracia Theatre at 8:00 p.m.

Concert by the Dio Ayad at Gracia Theatre at 9:30 p.m.

Forum (7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.) Lucnica Foliklore Group of Slovakian at the Sound and Light at 9:00 p.m.

Performance by Jugnu Group at the

Performance by Al-Andalus De Cadiz of Spair at the South Theatre at 8:30 * Poetry recial b several Arab poets at

ministry officials.

 Puppet show for children entitled "The Children of the Village" at the Sound and Light Theatre at 7"45 p.m.

Performance by several and Light Theatre at 7:45 p.m.

 Performance by several Jordanian groups at the Forum (6:30-9:00 p.m.)

Egyptian circus at the Forum at 9:30

EXHIBITIONS

. Handicrafts and souvenirs at the Amman Citadel (9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.)

* Abstract art by Randa Qassis at the Royal Culutal Centre Exhibition of Palestinian products 95 at the Universal Expo Centre, Universi

Display of Palestinian heritage at the

Professional Associations Complex. * Paintings and ceramics hy Arah artists

* Paintings by Adnan Yahyah at Darat

at Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Utheina.

* Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.

Parents in court

LONDON (R) - The pa

rents of a brain-damaged baby boy Monday sought to end his suffering and let him die. Fiona and Con Creedon

went to the English High

Court asking permission to

withdraw artifical feeding for

their 22-month-old son Tho-

mas, brain-damaged in the

womb and now blind and deaf. "Fiona and I love Tho-

mas beyond measure and we

would not seek this action if

we did not believe it was best

a crowd crush at an English

Parents refuse

from police

to take son back

CAIRO (AFP) - Police in a

Cairo slum have been left.

with a nine-year-old boy-on-

their hands after his divorced

parents who threw him out

refused to take him back, the

daily Al Akhbar reported

into protective custody after:

where he had lived alone for

two months in the Shubra Al

Kheima neighbourhood of

the Egyptian capital. The boy

told police he had been thrown out by his stepmother

to prevent his father, a work-

er in a wood factory, from

beating him. Hamam then

soccer stadium.

bid for baby euthanasia

He pointed o

Sri Lanka Tiger rebels admit 128 women cadres killed

COLOMBO (Agencies) — he told Reuters. "There is no Sri Lanak's Tamil Tiger re-respect of human life on their hels said Monday 128 women, including two suicide bombers, were killed in an abortive attack on four army bases Friday and that a "traitors" had forewarned the military.

The Tigers radio, broadcasting from the northern rebel stronghold of Jaffna, said 180 cadres were killed in Friday's assault in the northeast Welioya area, 128 of them women.

It made no mention of dead children seen lying in rows in pictures taken by the Defence Ministry after the fighting.

The armed forces scored their biggest victory over the Tamil Tigers in 12 years of war Friday and accused the guerrillas of sacrificing young girls and boys in the front

The army says the bodies of 182 Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) fighters were recovered but that the toll would rise. State radio said almost 500 Tigers had been killed, after bodies strewn along the beaches had seen counted.

Only one home guard and one solider were killed ion raids on which they had received a tip-off, the military

Military spokesman Briga-dier Sarath Munasinghe said Saturdayhe was appalled at the number of children killed in the enemy front lines.

BONN (R) — German

opposition leader Rudolf

Scharping won a break from

constant sniping within his

Social Democratic Party

(SPD) Monday when his

arch-rival said he would not

challenge for the SPD lead-

ership this year.
"I bave always said I am

not competing against anyone. especially not Rudolf

Scharping," Lower Saxony

State Premier Gerhard

Schroeder told German

radio, playing down specula-tion he would seek the SPD

1989 by a British company, a former senior Foreign Office told the Daily Telegraph

Mark Higson, who quit the Foreign Office in 1990, said

confidential documents re-

ported that the British firm

Ordtech was supplying milit-

ary equipment to Iraq and was supplying the British sec-

ret services with information

to me and to a number of

other people very early on

"Information was known

on Iraq by return.

aware of embargo-husting graph.

man lives like that."

Tiger radio said a traitor had tipped off the military. which is why they were ready. It said two women suicide bombers had destroyed two artillery pieces at Janakapura, which it described as the armed forces' most deadly weapon. Some 3,000 Tigers were

side. We can't sacrifice hn-

involved in the attack on the military detachments at Kokilai, Janakapura. Jayasinghepura and Kokkutuduvai, military sources

Tigers attacked in the same area Monday, at Athawetu-nuwewa, killing one soldier and wounding three, the military said.

On Sunday, troops ambushed and killed five Tigers south of the Elephant Pass base on the northern Jaffna lagoon. One soldier was wounded.

The Tigers launched their raids Friday as the armed forces prepared to resume their Operation Leap Forward offensive in the LTTE's Jaffna peninsula stronghold. where they say they have captured 78 square kilometres of rebel territory.

The Tigers retaliated Sunday by blowing up a popular brigadier in a landmine. He was promoted posthumously to lieutenant general.

The military said 10 Tigers and one soldier were killed "There were young girls and boys in large numbers," Saturday when troops moved out of their newly captured

leadership at a party confer-

But he dodged questions

about whether he wanted to

be the party's candidate for

chancellor when the SPD

tries to unseat Helmut Kohl

in national elections in 1998.

ing so far in advance who

should lead the SPD ticket,

Mr. Scharping has faced

open revolt from some con-

servative SPD members who

feel his consensus-building

style lacks zest. Slumping in

Report: U.K. aware of arms sales to Iraq

teports to ministers' private

offices and other senior offi-

Four senior figures at

Ordtech were convicted in

1992 for having delivered

military equipment to Bagh-

dad, including components of

pieces of heavy artillery.

The four men appealed the

ruling and in order to prepare

their defence were authorised

by the Court of Appeal last

week to have access to docu-

ments whose publication the

The appeal is expected to

government banned in June.

cials." he said.

There was no point decid-

German SPD cools internal feud

ence in November.

he said.

LONDON (AFP) — The giving us information about British government was fully it," Mr. Higson told the Tele-

area south of Alveddi and attacked a group of LTTE

Tiger Radio said only three LTTE members were killed and that the rebels had stopped the army advance.

Jaffna Radio maintained silence about the raids over the weekend, but residents travelling from the north said the town of Omanthai was in mourning, with black flass flying the streets and all the shops closed.

The Tigers have been fighting for a separate homeland in the north and east in a war which the government says more than 50,000 people bave been killed since 1983. Meanwhile a radical Sinhala group Monday called for a referendum on political prop-osals to end Sri Lanka's civil war and described the gov-

ernment's peace package as a "giant step" towards separa-The Sinhalese People's Liberation Front, or JVP, which has led two unsuccessful insurrections said concessions to minority Tamils envisaged by the government amounted to a betrayal of the

"The government is pre-paring ro unveil a package that will pave the way to distintegrate the country. This so called settlement to the ethnic conflict is a giant step towards the creation of Eelam a separate Tamil state)," the JVP said.

Any proposals must go to a referendum, the JVP said in a statement that put the group

crossed swords with Mr.

Scharping over taxes, Ger-

many's military role in Bos-

nia and energy policy, hut stressed he was only trying to defend his state's interests,

not pick a fight with the SPD

He criticised those who in-

terpreted every difference

over policy as a personal bat-

Mr. Higson, who ran the

Foreign Office Iraq desk in 1989, said he had seen docu-

a "helper" MI6, the British

overseas secret services sec-

tion, providing information

on the arming of Iraq.
Iraq invaded Kuwait in
August 1990. Months later,

U.S. and allied troops forced

Several members of the

current government have

been dogged for over two

years by so-called "Iraqgate"

reports that senior govern-ment figures knew about

covert arms sales to Iraq.

A judicial report on the

arms sales is due to be pub-

the Iraqi forces back.

tle between the two men.

with other extremist Sinhalese and Tamils who oppose the government plan.

The statement came as President Chandrika Kumaratunga scheduled meetings with Tamil legislators and the main opposition United National Party (UNP) to discuss a plan to end 23 years of fighting which has claimed over 50,000 lives.

In 1987, the JVP led street protests against a peace plan that called for the creation of provincial councils and granted limited autonomy in Tamils. Nearly 100 people died in protests in August

The plan eventually fell with the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) abrogating an agree-ment and returning to their guerrilla war. Mrs. Kumaratinga's latest

package, leaked to the press last week, envisages a federal set up with extensive legislative powers to eight regions. It effectively gives Tamils the right to determine their

The country's influential Ruddhist clergy has already asked President Kumaratunga to delay unveiling the proposals until the LTTE has been defeated.

Mrs. Kumaratunga met Buddhist leaders at the weekened to discuss the issue but details of the meeting more not known. Officials said she guaranteed the sovereignty of the state and the special status accorded to

Texas opinion polls, the SPD needs gunman a more ambitious leader like Mr. Schroeder to inspire it, critics say. Mr. Schroeder has recently

kills 2 children, wounds 5

FOR WORTH, Texas (R) -A gunman shot and killed A gunman shot and knied two children and wounded five other people at Fort. Worth apartment complex including a police officer before surrendering to authorities, police said Monday.

The incident began Synday

The incident began Sunday morning when authorities reecived a report of shots being fired at the apartment complex, a police officer

Three officers responded to the call, and the gunman began firing shots out of his apartment, apparently at police, the officer said. As pobce officer Angela

Amjay passed by the gun-man's apartment, he shot her, hitting her in the shonl-der and abdomen, be said. Other officers entered the apartment, found the gunman and ordered him to put

plied and was arrested, the officer said. Inside the apartment, officers found a dead boy and girl, ages six and eight, as well as four wounded: A two-yearold girl, the children's 28year-old mother, a security

his weapon down. He com-

guard and another apartment complex resident, a man. The wounded were taken to hospital.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate majority leader Bob

Dole built impressive support for his challenge to President

Bill Clinton's Bosnia policy.

But he's finding it much har-

der to deliver on issues closer

to home, and to the heart of

It's enough to make a pres-

White House race started at

passive Clinton approach.

No such meeting of parti-

san minds has greeted the

House Republican "Contract

With America," the 1994

campaign document some

lawmakers view as gospel.

Some provisions in the con-

tract and the ongoing hudget

process have driven wedges

between factions inside the

Republican Party as well as

his Republican Party.

for attempted murder.

"Twenty-two were arrested for hijackings. We

the weekend," he said,

sonrce said.

ple were murdered every day

Meanwhile, at least 36 people were killed in criminal

a statement Monday.

Monday. Police brought Mohammad Said Haman finding him asleep in a street

and political violence in volatile KwaZuln-Natal province

Among the incidents re-ported by police Monday, was an attack Saturday by an armed group of around 200 people on a bouse in Isi-pingo, south of this KwaZulu-Natal port city, in which three people were kil-

fied to his mother, who also turned him out after her new husband refused to give him a home. Police contacted both parents but each refused to take back the child. Hamani 87 Bangladeshi MP seats declared vacant will remain with police until they cair find someone to manded a fresh election take care of him, the paper

under a nentral government. An election is already sche-

rejected the opposition's de-The MPs resigned en mas-Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali refused on technical grounds

duled for early 1996, when Mrs. Zia completes her five-year term, and Mrs. Zia has

to accept their decision. On Saturday, the speaker declared vacant the seats of hoycotting MPs on the grounds that they had been absent for 90 days since June 20 without leave from the

their seats was the permanent In a separate development, two people were killed when a crude bomb they were makhead of the Jatiya Party, deposed President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, who is serving a 13-year jail term for graft and faces murder

charges as well. In all, 147 MPs walked out of the parliament in March 1994 to back calls for the resignation of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and the dissolureported. tion of the 330-member

house, elected in 1991. They complained that Mrs. Zia's government did not allow free elections and derobberies.

ing exploded, a news report Monday. Another four people were injured in the blast Sunday in

Comilia town, 88 kilometres east of Dhaka, United News of Bangladesh news agency Crude bombs - tin pots

filled with explosives widely used in Bangladesh during political protests and

Chicago declares heat emergency People were also allowed amid continued forecasts of into some 60 other city buildhot and sticky weather.

deaths two weeks ago, Chicago declared a heat

emergency as the heat index climbed above 100

degrees Fahrenheit (about 38 degrees Ceisius) (AFP photo)

Nationwide, officials reported the deaths of 845 peo-In Washington, were veterple over the past few weeks. Emergency measures in Chicago have included the opening to the public of eight centres which provided round-the-clock air-

Meanwhile, a tropical storm brought relief from the heat to the coast of Texas, in the south, Sunday, but heavy rainfalls caused some flooding to previously parched

ings during the heat of the

ans Saturday commemorated the Korean War, some 500 people had to be treated for heat exhaustion.

S. Africa arrests 6,000 in crime blitz arrested for murder and 20

conditioning for the poorest who are otherwise unable to

escape the heat and high humidity which has plagued

much of the eastern United

States for the past two weeks.

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — South African police said Monday they had arrested more than 6,000 suspected criminals in a 10-day long crime prevention operation around the commercial capital Johannesburg.

The operation had netted

Registered Nurse Bayani Leguspi checks the

blood pressure of Chicago resident Joseph

Filipawski Jr. at a cooling centre in Chicago.

In the wake of more than 500 heat-related

washington (AFP) —

Chicago declared a "heat

emergency" over the

weekend as temperatures

soared into the mid-90s (35

degrees Centigrade), but

there were no immediate re-

ports of new deaths in this mid-western U.S. city still

recovering from a deadly

heat wave. Some 546 deaths have been

blamed on the recent hellish

temperatures in Chicago,

which extended its heat

emergency into Monday

6,011 suspects by Monday, Lieutenant Jan Combrinck told Reuters.

"Police set up 357 roadb-locks and 21,363 vebicles were searched... as part of the community safety plan,"

DHAKA (AFP) - The seats source said. .

Sixteen suspects had been

of 87 opposition members of

parliament have been de-

clared vacant and another 55

challenged due to their 16-month boycott of the house

to force a general election, a

parliament source said Mon-

reme Court ruling declaring

147 opposition seats vacant

hecause their holders

violated a law requiring per-mission for absences of over

The speaker's decision.was

to be published in the par-

liamentary gazette Monday.

and the Election Commission

said it would organise hy-

elections for the vacant seats.

next couple of days to chart

our course of action," said a

eader of the main opposition

Awami League, whose chief

Letters have been sent to

55 other opposition lawmak-

ers who had signed the

attendance register in parlia-

ment, asking them to clarify

whether they were really pre-

sent in the main chamber

during the boycott, the

Dole finds it hard to deliver on local issues

ost her seat.

"We'll be meeting in the

He said among the arrests

were 406 for theft, 169 for housebreaking, 128 for motor vehicle theft or attempted theft and 117 for rape.

had great success bere, with .1g of them arrested just over Many of the suspects were caught at roadblocks set up-

around Johannesburg, one of the cities hardest hit by a wave of violent crime in which an average of 50 peo-

Those 55 seats are likely to

Among those who lost

he declared vacant soon, the

their seats were Sheikh Hasi-

na Wajed, chief of the Awa-

mi League; Mizanur Rahman

Chowdhury, acting chief of

na Matiur Rahman Nizami,

leader of the fundamentalist

Another five lawmakers

were allowed to continue as

MPs because they were either

in jail or had changed sides to

support the government.
One of those who kept

Jammaat-E-Islamic Party.

at the weekend, police said in

Night at the opera ends with a bang

MACERATA, Italy (R) opera Tosca ended with a bang at a summer festival in eastern Italy when the hero was shot in the foot during the execution scene. Italian tenor Fabio Armiliato, play ing the painter Mario Cavaradossi, sat on the stage rub bing his left foot and was taken away on a stretcher organisers said. Armiliato was treated in hospital for cuts and bruises. Festival staff said he may have been hit by flying debris from a blank fired from a rifle in the third-act execution scene

Waterworld tops U.S. boxoffice

LOS ANGELES (R) Waterworld, Universal Figures' \$200 million gamble, surged to the top of the box office charts Sunday, but the film's debut was less spec-tacular than other blockbuster films this snmmer. According to industry estimates compiled by Exhibitor Relations Inc. a Hollywood firm that tracks box office results. Waterworld grossed about \$21.6 million over the Friday to Sunday period; easily beating the number two entry. The Net. Box office figures are based on actual ticket sales for Friday and Saturday and estimated results for Sunday. However, experts said the Waterworld opening was at the low end of analysts' estimates and wellbelow the openings of other blockbuster films this sum mer. Apollo 13, another Universal film, pulled in almost. \$26 million in its opening weekend in early July while Batman Forever, the summer's most successful film thus far, sold \$52.8 million in tickets in its opening weekend. Universal spokesman Alan Sutton said Water world, which deals with life on Earth after the planet has been covered in water because of the polar ice caps melting, was still among the biggest box office openings this summer. Waterworld, starring Kevin Costner, has attracted intense publicity because of its record-setting production costs, elaborate stunts and a public feud between Costner and the film's director Kevin Reynolds.

lished later this year. Italian mafia 'plotted to kill 2 judges'

PALERMO. Sicily (AFP) -Sicilian mafia bosses planned to kill two anti-mafia judges in a car bomb outside Palermo's main court, judicial sources said here Monday. The targets were Palermo

state prosecutor Giancarlo Caselli and magistrate Roberto Scarpinato, both involved in the case against former Italian Premier Giulio Andreotti for alleged mafia links. Four people were arrested

eight days ago after a stolen car and about 100 kilogrammes of TNT explosive, of which eight kilogrammes had been made into a bomb, were discovered in Palermo. The charge would have been big enough to blow up

an entire building, Palermo police chief Arnaldo La Barbera said at the time. Details of the assassination plot were revealed by two separate sources, one a reli-

able informant who said that the mafia wanted to blow up a hooby-trapped ambulance just in front of the court. The other source was mafia turncoat Pasquale Di Filippo

who claimed Leoluca Bagarella, a brother-in-law of jailed Cosa Nostra (Sicilian Mafia) boss Salvatore "Toto" Riina, wanted to get rid of the two judges.

Mr. Di Filippo' s informa-

tion had already led to Mr. Bagarella's arrest in Palermo on June 24.

Police also found notes relating to the payment of 300 million lire (\$187,000) for 100 kilogrammes of explosive in the home of Mr. Bagarella aide Antonino Mangano. The revelations led a public safety committee in Palermo to beef up security around the court.

'We are getting lots of information about possible attacks. We do not want to blow this information out of proportion but we also do not want to under-estimate it," Palermo Prefect Achille Serra said. "That's why we decided to increase security." Mr. Caselli, Palermo's

chief prosecutor since January 1993, has given new life to anti-mafia inquiries which struggled to stay afloat after the assassination three years ago of top Judge Giovanni

Both he and Mr. Scarpinato worked on building up the dossier against Mr. Andreotti, who is accused of helping Cosa Nostra bosses, notably in getting the Supreme Court of Appeal to overturn sentences imposed on them.

Mr. Scarpinato will also be one of the prosecutors in the trial of the former Christian Democrat leader which is due to start on Sept. 26.

In related developments Monday, Bruno Contrada, a former police official and key agent for the Italian Secret Service, was freed Monday for health reasons after two and a half years in preventive custody, judicial sources.

His attorneys had asked that their client, currently on trial for allegedly colluding with the mafia, be freed for health reasons and argued that by allowing him to return home he posed no risk to the investigation against him.

Mr. Contrada during a court hearing this spring fell ill and had to be rushed to hospital, where he later tried to commit suicide. Mr. Contrade, whose trial

is one of the biggest in the run-up to Mr. Andreotti's trial in September, has repeatedly claimed his innocence and said he was being framed by mafia members seeking to avenge his police work. He is accused of helping mafia bosses, particularly Mr. Riina, to escape police

detection. On Sunday a right-wing group called the Federation of Young Liberals appealed to Amnesty International to

take up his case. The affair has rekindled the debate over the excessive length of pre-trial detention in Italy, just as a law limiting this type of measure reaches its final stage before being adopted by parliament.

Meanwhile in Trieste, Italian magistrates were Monday questioning a man of North African origin who was arrested at the weekend carrying a manual that included. coded information about making hombs, judicial officials said.

The man, whose name and nationality were not released by police, was arrested Saturday in Trieste after he entered Italy from Slovenia, the former Yugoslavia republic which borders the northeastern city, the officials said.

between the two parties.

A cornerstone of the con-He was being questioned about his identity papers and tract, a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced about the manual, the offi-

vote in the Senate. Sweeping legal reforms were abandoned under Democratic pressure in favour of a much narrower bill. The House drive to limit

new health, safety and en-vironmental regulations and slash existing ones also has stalled in the Senate under idential candidate with the heavy Democratic fire. If Democrats get their way, the bill will be revived this week in far less dramatic form. Welfare overhaul, another

the water's edge.
Sen. Dole's long campaign
to alter a U.S. policy he brands fundamentally unfair Republican priority passed took on momentum with new months ago by the House, allegations of atrocities in has turned into another Dole Bosnia and ever-growing impatience with the relatively headache. Conservatives led hv Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas, front-runner Dole's Those developments helps Sen. Dole marshal a large chief rival for the Republican presidential nomination, con-tend the bill produced by hipartisan majority in favour of requiring Mr. Clinton to party moderates betrays.Reunilaterally lift the arms embargo on Bosnia. publican principles and

promises to voters. Sen. Gramm would comhine nine programmes into a block grant to states. He would also impose stringent work requirements, deny benefits to new immigrants, and end henefit increases for The Senate this week be-

gins consideration of a revised Dole welfare plan somewhere hetween the Gramm bill and a Democratie alternative. Democrats are already dismissing the budget, went down hy one new Dole proposal as punitive and "far right" - yet it may not go far enough to please conservatives. There's no guarantee anything will

The Senate's hlurry lines, procedural tangles, muddy results and frequent lack of action are frustrating beyond words to hard-driving House conservatives "My blood pressure's pret-ty high," said Rep. Jim Nus-

ile, a Republican from Iowa. He said there is "wide-spread" disappointment among his colleagues about the fate of their campaign pledges. He also said he is fed up with Republican "whining and complaining" about Democratic filibusters that baven't actually happened. Personally, he said, he would force Senate Demo-

crats to go through with their threats. "I'd get 51 cots and put 'em in the lohby. We've got work to do," Mr. Nussle said. He predicted the public would lose patience with Democrats after one or two actual talk-a-thons. Asked if he faults Sen.

Dole's approach, Mr. Nussle refused to say. He did sound less than impressed about the Bosnia vote. "I'm not sure I know what they accomplished," be said.

Sen. Dole scored a major success with passage of the Republican seven-year halanced budget resolution, even winning acceptance of tax cuts many old Senate hands had resisted. But as the cbamber works its way through 13 spending bills. disappointments inevitably await conservatives who got satisfaction from the House. Sen. Mark Hatfield, a Re-

publican from Oregon, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, made it explicit last week. As the panel killed a House provision denying abortion coverage to federal employees, he urged his colleagues to "try to clean up these bills from the House that have undue burdens placed on them." It's a mindset foreign to energised conservatives spoil-

ing for a good.

Mr. Nussle, whose state caucuses in February pose the first test of presidential strength, said early this year he'd assess Sen. Dole's performance on the contract before deciding which White House candidate to support.

"I have not reached any conclusions yet," he said Friday. But apparently his constituents have. Recalling the adage about the House being the cup of hot coffee and the Senate the saucer that cools it off, he said, "my reading of what I hear from lowans is that it's time to stick that saucer in the microwave."

for him," Con Creedon said before launching the emotion-charged court bid. "It is a desperately hard situation for any caring pa-rent to be in," he told reporters. Thomas cries incomolably, has constant fits and is fed through a hole in his stomach. He cannot control his limbs. In what could be a

major test case for euthanasia in Britain, his parents say that force feeding the baby is barbaric and should be en-Members of ded. In a landmark case in 1993, Tony Bland, was allowed to die three years after being left brain dead in Anatoly Ku spokesman Cooperation conference

> Mos GROZNY. cies) — Rust rebel Cheche pared an exc ers under agreement C incidents over six Russian s ported killed In Moscov tional Court weeks of del

> > guerrillas ha lutely constit The 19-me ruled that a s ment decree which gave th troops to go i "generally co constitution." Russian tro away region s points and c

that a decree

dent Boris

cember to c

sniper to times capital Grozn deal, signed : at ending sev conflict Interfax Nev five serviceme ina single inci an army c ambushed. A was killed and -wounded in or The incider the fragility o

were fired o

ter weeks of But the tw same readied swap prisone Decis President Har

.accord teacher

he had few re He authori ping of the a Japan in the ment he was the morning of No hesitation about the condoubts. No ifs Lets there about it," Mr. in his memoir

the homo a weapon and doubt that it sh A half cent decision is h with a genera rians and critic to be born cas its morality, n flood of book speeches. But a man Truman's side opposed using cause be felt Ja

to surrender --should be giver bringing about World War II, their argument

It gave t
(Hirohito) som
his hat on," say
retired arms
tiator, diploment tiator, diplomatery and Trun think it's safe to bomb may ha Japanese a face surrender."

Truman's decis by the U.S. N Commission, ti the first bomb on Hirosbin Hiroshin cabinet was sti
He said peop the Japanese whole did not ke atom bomb becary did not let only understoo throughout the Nitze said of the said

Nitze said of the left 140,000 dea

wd crush at an Ex

ा stadium.

RO (AFP) - Police o slum have been a nine-year-old bo hands after his ding nts who threw sed to take him bad. y Al Akhhar repr nday. Police broc nammad Said He protective custon; ing him asleep in a re he had lived ale months in the Shin ima neighbourhor Egyptian capital Te police he had out by his steps. revent his father as in a wood factory. ting him. Haman I to his mother, we ned him out after is band refused to give ne. Police contaca ents but each reis e back the child. I remain with pole

ight at the pera ends

y can find some

e care of him way

ith a bang ACERATA. IET P e opening man d era Tosca ended E. ag at a summer issi. stern Italy when it: s shot in the foot a : execution scene. It or Fabio Armilian, ; the painter Manole ossi, sat on the sage ng his left foot mi con away on a som ganisers said. Ame is treated in hosping ts and bruises fa iff said he may bath by fiving debus in ank fired from a size

ird-act execution & Jaterworld pps U.S.

oxoffice

OS ANGELES

aterworld. Universities \$2(0) million \$5 rged to the top of the fice charts Sunday & m's deout was its cular than other bid r films this sur ecording to industry ates compiled by Es elanons inc. a Holy m that tracks bor sults. Waterwork & riday to Sunday & asily bearing the second of the Net fice figures are mual ocker sales for nd Saturday and est sults for Sunday, Hos spers said the Water pening was at the lost naiysts estimates elow the opening di lockbuster films in ter. Apolio 13, another ters at film, pulled it is at 26 million pulled in the control of the co cekend in early lift narman Porever Japanese a surrender."

He narman He narm

26 million in its ickets in its of a cekend. University eets covered in



Members of Russian delegation (from left) Arkady Volsky Anatoly Kulikov, Vyacheslav Mikhailov listen while a spokesman for OSCE (Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe) makes a statement at a press conference in the yard of the OSCE mission. The two

rearing army uniform on right are Chechen delegates Aslan Maskhadov (right) and Usman Imayev (second from right). The press conference followed the signing of Russian-Chechen military accords (AFP photo)

Moscow: Military accord holds with Chechens

GROZNY, Russia (Agencies) — Russian officials and rebel Chechens Monday prepared an exchange of prisoners under a new military agreement despite shooting incidents overnight in which six Russian soldiers were reported killed,

In Moscow, the Constitutional Court, after several weeks of deliberation, ruled that a decree issued by President Boris Yeltsin last December to disarm Checheo guerrillas had been "abso-lutely constitutional."

The 19-member court also ruled that a separate govern-ment decree also of Dec. 9. which gave the green light for troops to go into Chechenya, "generally corresponds to the constitution.

Russian trops in the hreakaway region said army checkpoints and command posts were fired on hy Chechen sniper to times in the regional capital Grozny despite the deal, signed Sunday, aimed at ending seven months of

Interfax News Agency said five servicemen were killed ina single incideot in which an army column was amhushed. A sixth soldier was killed and 20 others were

-wounded in other attacks in the past 24 hours. The incidents highlighted the fragility of the military accord reached in Grozny af-

ter weeks of bargaining.

But the two sides all the -same readied themselves to swap prisoners seized since Russian troops swept into the region to end a drive for independence.

Sandor Meszaros, representative of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Grozny, said the prisoner ex-change had been originally set for Mooday but had been delayed "for technical reasons." He told ITAR-TASS oews agency that it would now take place Toesday or Wednesday.

Delegates to the peace talks Sunday hailed the military agreement as a break-through which should lead to a permanent solution to the conflict, which has cost thousands of lives.

But the ink was barely dry on the document — the pre-cise contents of which were kept secret — when Chechen rehel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev was reported to have branded it invalid.

His comments, made by telephone to a reporter from the U.S. State Departmentfunded Radio Liberty, a Russian-language station, threw the hard-won agree-

ment into doubt. But in Moscow Russian officials Monday said the agreement still stood despite

Mr. Dudayev's reported rejection of it. Arkay Volsky, a senior member of the Russiain delegation at the peace talks, held up a letter at a Moscow news conference in which he

said Mr. Dudayev had fully

empowered his negotiators to

conclude a military agree-ment on Chechenya's behalf,

The letter, signed hy Mr. Dudayev, was sent before the agreement was reached hut the main condition the separastist leader had set was that all members of the Chechen delegation signed the accord. "All members signed without exception," Mr. Volsky said. Vyacheslav Mikhailov, the

chief Russian negotiator, said the deal was sure to help peace moves. "I think in any case, whatever happens, the agreement is signed and has been signed by people who have influence and are able exert influence," he told the same news conference.

The agreement also left unsolved the question of Chechenya's political status. The Chechen rebels want full independence hut Moscow has ruled this out and says the status issue can be discussed only after elections are held in Chechenya.

Mr. Dudayey, elected president of Chechenya in 1991, unilaterally declared independence from the Russian Federation.

The rehels, who have fiercely resisted since Moscow poured troops into the region in December, fought in his name and the delegates to the peace talks were sent

with his authority.
The Radio Liberty corresponent said Mr. Dudayev had alleged the Russian exerted pressure on his representatives. But the chief

Chechen delegate, Usman

Imayev, appeared relaxed when he spoke to reporters

Mr. Dudayev's comments could be a move to appease hardline supporters who want to avenge the deaths of comrades-in-arms, and civilian relatives and friends killed by Russian firepower.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin abolished Monday the Presidential Human Rights Commission headed hy rights campaigner and former dissident Sergei Kovalev, Moscow Echo radio

Mr. Yeltsin decreed the commission would be placed under the authority of a similar body within the presiden-tial administrative, the radio said. The president's office has not confirmed the abolition of the commission.

The move would appear aimed at clipping the wings of the outspoken Kovalev, who has repeatedly denounced the numerous violations of human rights allegedly perpe-trated by Russian forces dur-

ing the war in Chechenva. Mr. Kovalev, 64, has been vehemently, critical of Russia's use of massive military force and indiscriminate bomhing and shelling of civilians to crush Chechenya's unilateral secession hid from

Russia.

His verhal attacks over Moscow's eight-month involvement in the southern United States by Taiwanese hreakaway republic has seen him increasingly distanced from the Russian president.

China's army does not rule out force against Taiwan

BEUING (R) — China's 'profile. People's Liberation Army It fo (PLA) will not give up the threat of force against rival Taiwan if the island tries to declare independence, Defence Minister Chi Haotian said in a hard-hitting speech

Monday.
Mr. Chi's warning, coupled with missile tests off the Nationalist-ruled island in mid-July, marked China's fiercesst threat to Taiper since its President Lee Teng-Hui enraged Beijing with a private visit to the United States in June.

The PLA will not undertake tn eschew the use of force, and will not sit idle and let it go unchecked if foreign forces meddle in China's internal affairs to effect an 'independent Taiwan," Xinhua News Agency quoted Mr. Chi as telling a reception to

mark Army Day on Aug. 1. Neither would China's three-million strong army sit idel "if Taiwan authorities are bent on splitting China," Mr. Chi said.

China's Communist rulers have considered Taiwan's Nationalists as a rebel government since they fled there after losing a civil war in 1949. Both Beijing and on June 4, 1989. Taipei have said they want reunification, hat on very

Mr. Chi's speech was Beijing's most overt statement of its antipathy to any hint of efforts by Taiwan, a virtual diplomatic pariah, to establish a higher international

different terms.

It follows China's tests of six guided surface-to-surface missiles just 140 kilometres north of Taiwan on July 21 to ing's threat is not an idle one. 26 along with a string of Although some said they paeans to its military mnd-

ernisation and the success of recent army exercises. Diplomats said they expected president and Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin, who also heads the powerful Central Military Commission, to issue a similarly tough speech Toesday,

the 68th anniversary of the founding of the People's Liberanon Army.
The PLA will firmly carry out the government's policy peaceful reunification of the motherland and resolutely opposes maves hy foreign forces to interfere in China's internal affairs, infringe upon China's sovereignty to undermine China's reunification,"

He was apparently referring to ties with the United States, which have plunged, as a result of Mr. Lee's U.S. visit, to their lowest point since the PLA used force to crush student-led prodemocracy demonstrations in Beijing's Tiananment Square

Xinhua quoted Mr. Chi as

China has said repeatedly it would use force if Taiwan declared independence.

Military analysts have said the unprecedented announcement of the recent missile tests and ongoing military exercises off the

Chinese coast of Zhejiang province, just north of Taiwan, were a show of force to remind Taipei that Beij-

did not expect China to use force against Taiwan they added that it might be pushed into action such as a naval blockade around the island. The East Sea 5 Exercises

along the Zhejiang coast have for the first time included mountain warfare training and city occupation drills with paratroopers engaged in house-to-house comhat along with the more regular amphibious landing and air support, nne analyst

The People's Daily said the 2.2 million-strong land army had upgraded its troops so that 70 per cent now qualified as special forces.

China has also announced it has held one of its largest air defence exercises in recent years — on July 18 in a desert in the northwest and fired an unspecified number of surface-to-air guided missiles. It did not name the

Meanwhile, Taiwan's President Lee said Mooday that the island will definitely not develop nuclear weapons though it is capable of doing

The Republic of China (Taiwan) has the ability to develop nuclear weapons, but the Republic of China will definitely not develop nuclear weapons," Mr. Lee told the National Assembly. Mr. Lee made the comment, broadcast on statefunded televisinn, during a question-and-answer session in the current National Assembly session.

A deputy proposed last week that Taiwan should develnp a nuclear arsenal to beef up its national defence, and Mr. Lee said the issue must be re-studied from "a long-term point of view."

Also Monday more than 60, senior Taiwanese nfficials left for Beijing to attend a fioancial seminar, marking the biggest delegarinn to visit China since hilateral ries soured in

Former Finance Minister Loh Jen-Kong, current chairman of Dah An Commercial Bank, led officials from the Central Bank, the Finance Ministry, major banks and brokerages and professors for the two-day seminar starting Tuesday, the organisers, Taipei Foundation of Finance, said.

Former Central Bank Governor Samuel Shieh also travelled with the delegation as a consultant, the foundarion, a private research body,

added.
They will get together with more than 100 delegates from the mainland's industry, government and academic fields. They will doubtless provide excellent chances for financial exchanges across the straits," said a statement issued by the foundation.

U.S., China harden stands ahead of talks

BANDAR SERI BE-GAWAN (AFP) - U.S. and Chinese officials hardened their stances Monday on rows over Taiwan and the arrest of a human rights activist as Secretary of State Warren

Christopher arrived for talks with his Chinese counterpart. Mr. Christopher is to meet Foreign Minister Qian Qichen Tuesday after an ASEAN security conference in Brunei hut the prospects

for patching up severaly strained Sino-U.S. ties looked increasingly dim. path forward and high level visits hut I do not expect any absolute conclusions on that

or any dramatic results," Mr. Christopher said. Washingtoo has already ruled oot the one concession that Beijing wants - a clearcut ban on future visits to the

President Lee Teng-Hui. Releations have sunk to a new low since Mr. Lee's private visit in June that left Beijing seething over what is ses as a violation of agreements against contacts with

its rival government on Taiwan.

The United States is pushing for the release of Harry Wu, a Chinese-American human rights investigator held on Juoe 19 and accused of spying.

Beijing has refused to dis-cuss Mr. Wu's arrest, which spokesman Shen Goofang described as "an independent criminal case," with no links to Sino-U.S. relations.

Taiwan is the most important issue in our relations with the United States," Mr.

"On the subject of Chinese territory, the Chinese government will never make any concessions," Mr. Shen said.
"If the U.S. side fails to take positive action then any improvement in relations would be impossible."

Mr. Christopher last week rejected Chinese demands for a ban on visits hy leaders from Taiwan. However, signals have emerged from Washington that President Bill Clinton wanted to meet Chinese head of state Jiang

Zemin to mend ties.

Speaking on his way to Brunei, Mr. Christopher said a summit would not be likely unless China releases Mr.

"It's very difficult for me to envision any circumstances under which President Jiang Zemin would be able to come to Washington to meet with the president if Harry Wu is still incarcerated." Mr. Christopher said.

U.S. officials have not confirmed for a Sino-U.s. summit hut Mr. Christopher said he would discuss "bigh-level" s when he meets

Qian. Mr. Christopher is also to hand Mr. Qian a letter for Mr. Jiang from Mr. Clinton discussing relations, hut he said it did not contain an invitation for a meeting.

He downplayed his first meering with Mr. Qian since the decline in relations. "It is an important meeting but not a make or hreak meening or an all or nothing meening,"

he said. Relations have been tense over issues such as human rights, trade and Chinese and Mr. Wu's arrest have sent them into free fall.

Talks between Mr. Qian and Mr. Christopher look set to overshadow a meening on Security issues organised by, the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Many Asian countries are increasingly worried by the dispute which they se as potentially destablising for the region.

"The U.S.-China relationship is fundamental," said an ASEAN delegate. e current si much worse that we antici-

pated. Mr. Qian has met with ASEAN members - Brunei, Iodonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam — and has heard renewed pledges th at the countries will not have

official contacts with Taiwan. He also mollified ASEAN concerns over territorial disputes in the South China Sea hy saying that China will follow international law in discussing rival claims to the Spratly Islands.

Decision of the century: Drop the A-bomb

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S.
President Harry Truman did it in the blink of an eye and "It did little more than add" he had few regrets.

He authorised the dropping of the atom bomb on Japan in the very same moment he was asked early on the morning of July 31, 1945. No hesitation. No hrooding about the consequences. No doubts. No ifs ands or buts. "Lets there be no mistake about it," Mr. Turman wrote

in his memoirs. "It regarded

the bomb as a military weapon and never had any doubt that it should be used. A half century later, that decision is hotly debated, with a generation of historians and critics who were yet to be horn casting doubt on its morality, military useful-

flood of books, papers and speeches. But a man who was at Truman's side - and who opposed using the bomh because he felt Japan was about to surrender - said the bomb should be giveo its just due in hringing about the end of the World War II, regardless of

ness and his motives in a

their arguments. "It gave the Emperor (Hirohito) something to hang his hat on," says Paul Nitze, a retired arms control negotiator, diplomat, navy secretary and Truman aide. "I think it's safe to say the atom bomb may have given the Japanese a face-saving way to

He pointed out recently, at a small gathering to consider eekend. University irruman's decision organised by the U.S. Navy Memorial orld, which despective the first bomb was dropped a Earth after the first bomb was dropped on Hiroshim

ause of the polar cabinet was still divided.

ause of the still so the said people forget that reliting, was office if the Japanese people as a liggest box (Wall, whole did not know about the his summer contains atom bomb because the militarring kevin public atom bomb because the militarring did net let on." It was truected interest of its record only understood locally, not ause of its record throughout the islands," Mr. roduction costs. Nitze said of the bomb that truns and a public is Nitze said of the bomb that ween Costner Rep.

a sense of urgency to the deliherations" of the Japanese government, he

The bombs "were psychological instruments, not military," he said, able to destrov only small cines and after the two were dropped on Japan it would be months before the United States could assemble

a -third. Mr. Nitze said Mr. Truman went along with Secretary of War Henry Stimson, Secretary of State Dean Acheson General George Marshall who wanted the bomh

dropped. He recalled that the decision to bomh, rather than wait for Japan's complete collapse, was also based on the belief from intelligence reports that Japan would kill the 140,000 prisoners of war it held if U.S. troops set foot

In addition, estimates of how many Americans would die in an invasion ranged widely, from around 40,000 to Gen. Marshall's view of 250,000. "No one knew," Mr. Nitze said. "There is no way even oow to tell. It could be 40,000 or 10 times that. Who will ever be able to

on the homeland.

It also was influenced by the reality of having so many troops waiting. He said Navy Secretary James Forrestal told him "one thing you have to do is not let 11.5 million men stand idly by. Politically,

it would cause problems." "I was sceptical. We were already firebombing," Mr. Nitze said, referring to the fact that in March 1945, 279 B-29 bombers dropped tonnes of napalm-like jelly gas on Tokyo, killing 84,000 peo-

"I thought this would be one more drop in the bucket in destructive force," he said. Mr. Nitze, who was in charge of surveying bomh



This file photo shows a man displaying his irradiated back in the aftermath of the first atomic bomb explosion in Hiroshima Ang. 6, 1945. Hiroshima lost some 140,000 people in the atomic explosion and from subsequent radiation sickness in the days and months that followed (AFP photo)

damage, said he "was more a decision. George Elsey, the stricken by the destruction of Dresden in Germany than either Hiroshima or Nagasa-

Mr. Truman seemed to make the decision with astonishing ease. In Potsdam, Germany, before another meeting with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, Mr. Truman took an important message from a navy aide, Message Number

From Stimson, it asked for

41011.

aide, watched as Mr. Truman without hesitation turned over the note and wrote in pencil on the back: 'Sec. War. Reply to your

41011. Suggestions approved. Release when ready, but not sooner than Aug. 2." Years later, when he was asked by a historian how he

deliberated and what he was thinking, Mr. Truman leaned over, held out his hand and snapped his fingers. "I decided it like that," he

Australia, N. Zealand excluded from Asia-Europe summit Brunei said the Asian group

BANDAR SERI BE-GAWAN (AFP) — Asian nations preparing for a summit with Europe in early 1996 agreed Monday to exclude Australia and New Zealand despite Japan's lohhying for the two to be taken aboard,

officials said. The unprecedented summit in Thailand will include the seven-member Association of South East Asian Nanons (ASEAN) along with Japan, China and South Korea, senior officials said after a meeting on the summit plans.

Leaders of the 10 Asean nations will face counterparts from 15 European Unioo members plus the European Commission in an informal, free-flowing set-up. The theme will be forging "a new Asia-Europe partnership."

The summit is an initiative of ASEAN, which include Brunci, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore. Thailand and vietnam. Delegates to the ongoing

ASEAN annual meeting in

reached a consensus that Australia and New Zealand will not be asked to join the first summit, but may be included

later on. Australian Foreign Miois-ter Gareth Evans played down the snuh Monday, saying it was "probably only a matter of time" before a consensus was reached on their involvement "We're

relaxed about it," he said. The summit has been tentanvely set for Feb. 29 to March 1 although Japan has yet to confirm it can attend on those dates, which coincide with a parliamentary ses-

Asia is already linked to the Americas through the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) foru, which will hold a summit in Osaka, Japan, in November to discuss the implementation of a regional free-trade program-

Japan was joined by South Korea in asking that Australia and New Zealand, both

APEC members, be included in the summit with Europe. Singapore Foreign Ministry permanent secretary Kishore'

Mahhubani said.

But Japan and South Korea accepted the views of the majority, and they "do oot want to disrupt the consensus," ne said. He said plans called for

leaders to "be able to sit comfortably with each other and talk to each other at the meeting, so they felt that the agenda should be kept very simple and short."

Mr. Mahbuhani said other nations would be considered for future summits. A European proposal to include foreign ministers as well inthe Bangkok summit will be subject to further consultations with the leaders.

in Madrid from December 19-20 to coorinue preparations for the summit. Earlier Monday, Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Hiroshi Fukuda told journal-

ists that Tokyo was deter-

Senior officials are to meet

mined to "persuade the others" to include Australia

and New Zealand in the sum-Japan, Australia and New Zealand are taking part in a regional security forum here Tuesday, followed by annual

ASEAN talks with key allies. "There are very wide and deep relations between those two countries and the rest of Asia, and our feeling is that maybe the dialogue between Asia and Europe can benefit hy having those two countries," Mr. Fukuda said.

Malaysia, which is pushing for an East Asian Economic Caucus that would exclude Australia and New Zealand, was the most vocal against hringing the two into the

Asia-Europe summit. Malaysian Foreign Minister Ahmad Badawi warned Saturday that ASEAN might be losing its collective voice in bigger groupings and must not allow itself to be "taken for granted" or "used hy others in secure their own

French congress meets to amend constitution

VERSAILLES, France (R) A rare point session of both houses of parliament opened in the palace of France's "sun king" Monday to amend the constitution. widening the use of referendums, in a move critics warned could increase pres-

ordinary criminal offences.

idential rule.

The Congress of the 887 members of the Secate and National Assembly was also due to adopt two other amendments extending the session rime of parliament to a single nine-month period, and making it easier to proseente parliamentarians for

New President Jacques Chirac promised the reforms in a drive to give French voters a greater direct say io

Under the proposed text, already adopted separately hy each house of parliament, the president will be empowered to call a referendum on "reforms relating to the economic or social policy of

democracy.

the nation and of public ser-The conservative Gaulllist Chirac promised during his election campaign to hold a referendum on reforming France's highly centralised education system, which

would not have been possible

under the current constitu-

The Socialist and Communist opposition parties vehemently oppose the amendment, saying it will further eaken parliament and the courts by enabling the poresident to bypass the legislature and the judiciary hy putting controversial

They also argue that issues as complex as education reform or overhauling France's welfare system are too complex to be reduced to a simple

proposals directly to a vote.

'yes no" choice. Even within Mr. Chirac'sown overwhelming par-

liamentary majority, some

lawmakers voiced missgivings about the sweeping power it would give the president.

The Senate forced a modification so that any issue put to a referendum would first have to be dehated hy both chambers of parliament. But there would be no parliamentary vote.

the change keeps firmly in the hands of the executive. The government spurned

Constitutional experts say

calls from the extreme-right and Ecologists for the public to be allowed to force a Swiss-style referendum by mounting a petition with a required number of signa-

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Jordan Press Foundation,

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Labour market influx

IT IS an established fact that most Arab labourers in this country, who come from mainly Egypt, Syria and Iraq, work in the construction and agriculture sectors. The reason being that within these two sectors, foreign labour equates to a cheaper labour force than a national workforce. The average Egyptian worker, for example, earns JD 70 a month if engaged in agriculture and JD 150 if in construction.

However, work permits cost a prohibitive JD 300 per labourer, thus explaining wby most work illegally. A building firm employing 20 workers is likely to resent paying JD 6,000 per annum to obtain work permits for them.

This is one side to the problem of imported labour. The second is the fact that since no minimum-wage law exists, employers, out of sheer self-interest, would rather employ foreigners. A young Jordanian labourer who pays rent or supports a family cannot possibly make ends meet on JD 70 to JD 100 a month.

There is therefore a dilemma. While the Minister of Labour, Dr. Nader Abul Sbaar, says he will not deport illegal Arab workers, which is an honourable and exemplary stand, he cannot ignore cries of injustice from Jordanian labourers and political activists.

The question now is: would the curbing of foreign labour really open opportunities for the local workforce? We have to admit that we cannot answer the question, simply because we lack serious studies on the issue. Figures on the size of Jordan's workforce and the number of foreign labourers have been cited. But we doubt that any of them is totally accurate or believable. There are also no studies revealing the behavioural patterns of Jordanian workers. Would they be willing to replace Egyptian agricultural workers in the Jordan Valley or the South, for instance? There are different views on this and on the question of wbetber Jordanians would want to replace Arab workers who work in construction.

Unless we answer questions like these, we will find it difficult to react meaningfully and wisely to the issue at hand. It is therefore incumbent on the Ministry of Labour and other ministries to study the issue comprehensively before deciding on any certain plan of action.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

SULTAN AL Hattab, a writer in Al Ra'l Monday lauded Qatar as the first Arah Gulf state to open a representative office in the self-rule areas, describing the move as a step that might encourage other Gulf states to follow suit. Saying that Qatar has followed in the footsteps of Jordan, Egypt and Morocco in opening the office in Gaza, the writer said that the move is considered as an open support for the Palestinian leadership in its quest to establish an independent entity following the end of occupation. Economic and diplomatic support is what the Palestine National Authority (PNA) needs at the moment. The PNA has been obtaining this support from countries, said the writer. European states and Muslim Nations have already opened offices and provided moral and financial support for the Palestinians and it is time for all the Arab countries to do the same at a time when the Palestinians are struggling to stand on their own feet and build for the future.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour said Monday that because Jordan is in need of tourists and visitors, it ought to take steps to help achieve that goal. Regulations banning a Jordanian from driving a car with Saudi licence plate discourages Saudi visitors from coming to Jordan, for instance, said Mohammad Subeihi. He said that a Saudi national is not accustomed to roads, districts and towns in Jordan and he prefers a Jordanian to drive him around; but he is disappointed with the traffic rules. Another point is fining Saudi Arabian and other cars for slight offences. which harm visitors who are not aware of the country's traffic and other systems, continued the writer. Also improper and untactful behaviour on the part of officials at border posts can do harm to the Kingdom and scare away visitors, he said. The writer said that traffic rules and other measures should be relaxed and traffic police and other officials should be flexible in their dealings with visitors.

The View from Fourth Circle

History as entertainment or teacher?

I HAVE had the pleasure this week of travelling around Syria on a family vacation visiting some of its major antiquities sites, on what is supposed to be, primarily a leisure trip. Yet it is difficult to appreciate the technical prowess and physical grandeut of sites such as Palmyra, Krak des Chevaliers (Qala'at El-Husn), the Umayyad Mosque in Damascus and Bostra in the south, or the calm power of monuments such as the tomh of Salaheddine (Saladin) without — from an Arah perspective, at least — drawing some explicitly political conclusions about the

The ancient monuments of our Levantine lands are presented to the world these days primarily in two forms—as profitable cultural entertainment for foreign tourists, or as destinations for picnics and family outings for Arabs. We tend to view our antiquities as being primarily about the past, and as being passive, dead monuments whose historical moment has passed long ago.

My renewed encounter with Syrian antiquities has dispelled many of these concepts, and reminded me of the many contemporary, political and global lessons that are inherent in these ancient ruins. The first lesson that we should ponder is about the nature of our antiquities sites throughout the Levant regison: Are these monuments about the past only, or are they also about the present and

I would suggest that they are very much about the present and the future, because even though the particular historical circumstances that gave rise to them — the Crusades, for example — have long vanished, the underlying geo-political and international forces that determine the nature of contacts and relationships between the

Levant and the world's powers have changed very little.

The Crusades may be long over, but the essential political concept of Crusading is very much alive and well, though in a new, modern form. The Crusades wanted to conquet Jerusalem and the holy land and to wrest it from Muslim hands because they thought that the Holy City belonged only to them. They conquered Arah lands, and built massive fortresses to assert their eternal control of the

Walking around the astounding Crusader fortress of Qala'at El- Husn the other day, my reaction to the whole

Crusader episode was a combination of awe at their technical prowess in huilding such spectacular castles and fortified towns, and bemusement with the doomed audacity they showed in attempting to conquer and retain such important regions of Arah lands. I found myself wanting to read and learn more about the Arah political and military leaders who confronted and defeated the Crusaders, often at very high costs in terms of Arah lives and resources.

The fascinating thing about the Crusades is not that they occurred or were finally beaten back, but that they endured for so long — about two hundred years — in a region that was and remains endowed with such forceful human, natural, cultural and strategic resources. Archaeology and our antiquities monuments, in this respect, can be important resources for our own learning about our own past, complete with its successes and failures. The ancient monuments that we merrily sell to foreign tour packages were, in their own time, emphatically political and ideological statements, and we would be making a very sad mistake if we thought that we could repackage our past in a non-ideological and purely commercial manner that essentially sees us view our past through the emotional prism of a Disneyland and the national/cultural values of an eastern Florida

It is more than merely interesting to recall that while the most important person of the 12th century was perhaps Salaheddine, the most internationally recognised figure of the 20th century has been — according to survey evidence — Mickey Mouse. The journey that we have travelled in the last eight centuries has been marked by many complex relationships with Europe and the modern West, yet some of the underlying forces that determine the nature of our relationships have changed very little. and — if Mickey Mouse is any indication — have prohably changed for the worse.

The commerical imperative that dominates the West's attitude to the Levant, the wider Middle East and the rest of the developing world is perhaps only a modern, mercantile version of the more crude Crusading mentality of the 11th and 12th centuries. The Western attitude to Bosnia in this respect is fascinating and instructive. I recall vividly during the period immediately before the Gulf War in 1991 that George Bush and James Baker repeatedly stated the key reasons for their military coalition to drive

Iraq out of Kuwait: The reasons were about the credibility of United Nations resolutions, the importance of assuring that small countries would not be subjected to the predatory aims of bigger, stronger countries, and the importance of affirming the application of the international rule of law.

Those principles are largely forgotten today in Bosnia, perhaps because Bosnia, unlike Kuwait, is not commercially significant; and in our modern world, where universalism is denominated in how many tickets to Mickey Mouse spectacles you can sell, the issues of truely universal interest to the West are those that have measurable commercial attributes. This is sad but real aspect of our contemporary world, but it was also a reality in the ancient world as well.

When we visit antiquities sites in the Middle East, we should make the effort to derive as much useful information from them for our own lives as we seem to be able to derive for the entertainment of visitors from other countries. The key lessons of a site such as Palmyra, for example, seem to be about the long-term futility of imperial dependence, of trying to generate durability and well-being for yourself in this region by delivering strategic services to imperial capitals far away. But Palmyra also teaches us about the political and aesthetic or cultural beauty of small nations or kingdoms in this region that live well and for many centuries hy pursuing national strategies that serve their own self-interest while also being useful to others, ie. by striking a halance between national dignity and international cooperation and interaction.

The lesson of an Umayyad mosque, on the other hand, is primarily about the productivity, creativity and sheer human and national power that can be generated by indigenous resources when political forces allow local talent to manifest itself.

The cycle of national achievement and regression has defined the Middle East for thousands of years, and no doubt will do so for thousands of years to come. Perhaps the achievement phases could be lengthened and the regression phases shortened if we were better ahle to learn from the lessons of our rich past, instead of primarily relating to the past as the source of endless entertainment and amusement.

The Third World is watching the United Nations and the West

By Martin Khor

PENANG. Malaysia — The Serbian capture of safe areas in Bosnia is seriously eroding the credibility of the United Nations and the West in the eyes of many Third World countries.

Developing nations with large Muslim populations, such as Malaysia, wonder why Western powers show such reluctance either to defend the Bosnians, most of whom are Muslims, or to allow them to protect themselves by lifting the U.N. emhargo on arms supplies to Bosnia.

Recent developments

have exposed the hypocrisy of the West's rhetoric on human rights: the hollowness of its commitment to protect the sovereignty of a nation, even with the heart of Europe itself, if there is no direct threat to Western strategic interests: and the lack of political will to act militarily if this runs counter 10 domestic opinion polls and electoral pros-

The French and the British have organised a 12.500member Rapid Reaction Force. It is intended to intervene quickly when needed. But the force faces a familiar constraint: it cannot act without U.N. sanction.

tion:

The sense of frustration and anger in Bosnia's population, especially its Muslims, must tun very deep. Not only have the major powers tefused to act when so many Bosnians are killed, raped or driven from their homes as Serbs carry out their policy of "ethnic cleansing." Even more disturbing is the arms embatgo, which denies the Bosnian government the means

to defend its citizens.

The Bosnian Serbs have had no problem skirting the embargo. They continue to get an adequate supply of weapons.

A number of Third World nations, particularly those with large Muslim populations, have pressed for lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia hut have faced strong resistance from Western countries, particularly in Europe.

larly in Europe.

By maintaining the emhatgo while failing to protect the Bosnians, the Western powers are actually aiding the Setbian takeover of Bosnia. The Bosnian Setbs, using supplies and aid from Setbia, have been able to advance rapidly, taking advantage of the Bosnian government's lack of weapons and the willingness of the West and the U.N. "peacekeepets" to stand by and watch.

Meanwhile. as human rights were being trampled underfoot on a massive scale in Bosnia. the human rights issue most promoted and publicised in the United States was the detention of the Chinese-American activist Harry Wu in China.

Newt Gingrich, the House speaket, threatened that America would use trade sanctions against China if Mr. Wu were not released. If only the same fervot in promoting human tights that U.S. leaders show when individuals are detained was also mobilised to defend the human rights of large groups of people undergoing collective siege and torment in places like Rosnia.

Rosnia.
Such double standards undermine the credibility of both the major Western powers and the United Nations.

The West could still do much to protect Bosnians from Setbian attack. But at the very least it must immediately lift the arms emhargo on Bosnia and allow countries prepared to do so to send in tapid reaction forces to help defend the safe areas and recapture Srehrenica.

The writer is director of the Third World Network. a Penang-based nongovernmental organisation dealing with developingcountry issues. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

LETTERS

Name distorted

To the Editor:

REFERENCE IS made to the interview with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres (Jordan Times, July 28), as I know Jerusalem, especially the Old City, rather well, I was puzzled to locate a "Via da la Rose" mentioned in the text of the interview. After a short reflection I have become sure that it is a distortion of the name of "Via Dolorose" of the way of the dolours, commonly known to Christians and others as the "Way of the Cross" of Jesus.

Hubert Dobers, Amman.

Waiting for telephone directory

To the Editor:

JORDAN HAS been without a telephone, directory since 1983. It is not enough to complain or to underline the significance of this failure and I honestly think those responsible should be questioned. We enter into perhaps the final chance for a leap towards catching up with the world and there is no simple telephone directory. I know all the excuses. I think a group of three or four 18-year olds with some computer literacy can produce such a document containing 250,000 entries in a week.

I can clearly recall the promises of officials that the directory will be ready in June. By the way, I wish to temind the Telecommunication Corporation (TCC) that a directory should be published every year and not once every generation.

As we are warned to pay out bills to the TCC and line up

and have the right change and not to argue about the rates and the service. I protest the unacceptable failure of the TCC to produce the directory and call upon it to shape up very quickly.

Jafar Salem, Amman.

'Treat us well'

To the Edit

I WOULD like to share an experience I had in Jordan as a domestic employee for a Jordanian family.

My employet requested me to take the children to "Kids' Zone" in Sweifiyeh an exciting event for both me and the children. When we got there, the children immediately got busy playing and having fun, while I stood to keep watch over them. Finally, I got a little tired, so I decided to take a seat. Suddenly a person who works there approached me and said: "You can't sit here. Only madames are allowed to sit here." "Why?" I asked.

"Orders from the owner," came the quick reply.
What could I do? I stood up and could only think of the fact that I was made to pay an entrance fee like anyone else. But I wasn't allowed to sit on a plastic chair. I wondered whether, in response to a call of nature, I would be told not to sit on a toilet seat. I wondered whether I should bring my own chait next time. I wondered whether I should take the children somewhere else on the next occasion.

What a way to behave! What attitudes are these? Aren't we all born equal? There are the rich and the poor, the mighty and the weak, the fortunate and the less fortunate, the haves and have-nots. But in the end, whatever we are and wherever we are, we will all be treated well and equally up there.

Belle F. de Jesus,

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

U.S. Bosnia arms lift could bring real nightmare

By Nicholas Doughty Reurer

LONDON — For Europe, the real nightmare in the Balkans may only just be starting

starting.

If the United States lifts the international arms embargo for Bosnia's government, diplomats and analysts say the consequences could go far beyond a humiliating withdrawal of the U.N. peacekeeping force and an even worse slaughter in Bosnia.

Many predict a wider Balkan conflict that would suck in NATO members Greece and Turkey and a lasting international rift between the United States, European allies and Russia.

That in turn would cripple future U.N. operations, hamstring NATO and destroy any hope of building a better European security order from the chaos that has followed the cold war.

"The effects would be fat-reaching, from a worsening of the fighting in Bosnia to serious damage to the international institutions," said Michael Williams of the London-based International Institute of

Strategic Studies (IISS).
Wednesday's vote in the
U.S. senate to lift the ban if
U.N. peacekeepers pull out

or are asked to leave by the Bosnian government has to go through several difficult hurdles hefore it becomes law, since it is opposed by President Bill Clinton.

But any U.S. move to

supply weapons would coincide with the end of the U.N. mission in Bosnia since key European nations have said they would be forced to withdraw.

British Prime Minister John Major hinted at the problems that would follow during last week's international meeting in London on the crisis, saying the peacekeepers had helped contain the conflict and cutb the worst excesses.

"If UNPROFOR were forced out of Bosnia... it would not end our involvement," Mr. Major said. "We all know that."

Despite warnings and criticism from European allies and Russia, many in the U.S. Congress believe it is now time to act after three years of war and that nothing could be worse or more unjust than the current humiliation of the U.N. mission.

The Bosnian government argues that the U.N. arms emhatgo. imposed on all parties in former Yugoslavia in 1992 as the old fed-

eration fell apart, has put its forces at an unfair disadvantage since the Setbs had most of the heavy weapons.

weapons.

But this is how European diplomats — and U.S. administration officials — fear things could develop if Washington unilaterally lifts the arms emhargo.

lifts the arms emhargo.

A U.N. pullout would require the biggest military operation in Europe since World War II to withdraw the peacekeepers. Led hy NATO, it would include some 60,000 troops, almost half of them from the United States.

Knowing that the arms embatgo was to be lifted, the Bosnian Serbs would prohably launch major attacks on government positions and try to hijack U.N. vehicles and weaponry. This would make a withdrawal much riskier, with higher casualties.

higher casualties.

There would be more attacks on "safe areas" and more floods of refugees.

"This time it would be no holds barred. The appalling scenes in Srehrenica and Zepa would he repeated elsewhere," said Mt. Williams of the IISS.

A more intense conflict in Bosnia would risk dragging in Croatia and even Sethia itself, diplomats say. An end to the U.N. mission would bring armaments not only from the United States hut from Muslim countries, including Turkey.

Greece and Turkey, although both members of NATO, are traditional enemies and deeply suspicious of each other's motives and history in the Balkans.

Russia is also critical of NATO and Western involvement in former Yugoslavia and may sell the Serbs weapons if others begin to supply the Muslimled government.
"What you then have is a

hitter war sustained by support from the United States and Russia, in the heart of Europe," said another diplomat. "Almost unthinkable. But it could happen."

Lifting the arms embargo and ending the U.N. mission would finally prove that Europe and its institutions had failed to deal with ethnic and nationalist problems on the continent.

A unilatetal lift by the

United States — in defiance of a U.N. ban — would destroy Washington's authority at the United Nations on other issues and undermine its claim to lead NATO, where it has often disagreed with European allies over Bosnia

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ISLAMABA

(AP) - Negot

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teraction between Jordanians and Israelis would dispel old

Bikdash — the last of the hardened Arab Marxist chiefs

By Marian Nimry Special to the Jordan Times

KHALID BIKDASH, the Syrian Communist Party chief for 40 years who died last week in Damascus, is remembered by his comrades as a committed Marxist, a fighter for greater Arab freedom, a great orator and a persuasive but undemocratic leader.

"I met bim wben he was still working under-ground," recalls issa Madanal, secretary general of the Jordanian Speialist Democranc Party, who met Mr. Bikdash for the first time in 1954. "He was a striking personality, confident, with persuasive abili-

Khalid Bikdash, of Kurdish origin, fought for independence during the French occupation in the

At that time, the eachings of Lenin and Marx attracted him and he oined the Syrian-Lebanese Communist Party in 1930. Sbortly afterwards he went to Moscow to continue his study of Marxist-Leninist ideology

In 1935 Mr. Bikdash returned to Syria and in 1937 became the secretary general for the 12-year-old Communist Party. In 1958, Syria and Egypt



Khalid Bikdash

united. "Contrary to what peoole said. Bikdash was not against unification," Mr. Madanat said.

"He simply believed that the political, economic, and social conditions of each country should be considered separately be-fore unification," said Mr. Madanat.

He said Mr. Bikdash held intricate views of Marxist-Leninist doctrines, but his comrades would criticise him (for) not being democratie. He would listen to other people's opinions but his confidence in his own knowledge made

him believe that he was always right."

In the mid-fifties, Mr. Bikdash became the first communist deputy to be elected to an Arab parliament. His procurement of 17 thousand votes in conservative Damascus was an obvious declaration of the people's response to his leftist ideas.

In 1959, all communist activists were arrested in Syria and Egypt. Mr. Bikdash sought political asy-lum in the Soviet Union and returned only after the end of the unity between Egypt and Syria in 1961. While the party planned

againsi Syrian President Hafez Al Assad's Reform Movement in 1970, Mr. Bikdash advised reflection and caution and then went on to form his own Syrian National Progressive Front in 1972.

Yaacuub Zayadin. secretary general of the Jordanian Communist Party, remembers the communist leader as a big man over 180cms tall, an excellent prator: a man who spoke clearly and precisely and who was unparalleled in his political performance and shrewd analysis.'

Towards the end, Mr. Bikdash remained politically acove despite his illness and was still the secretary general of the party at the

Tens of thousands of people showed up at his funeral, including deputies from the Syrian government and several delegates from the various political parties in Syria, according to Mr. Zayadin, "He spent more than 60 years of his life in and out of jail, resisting occupation, staging de-monstrations and living in exile," Mr. Zayadin said. "He will be remembered as a great man, an idealist and a fighter for social prog-

Talks to curb ethnic violence in Karachi break down

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Negotiations to stop the relentless violence in the southern city of Karachi were called off Munday when Prime Minister Benazir Bhutta's embittered opposition boycotted the talks.

The Muhajir Qami Movement (MQM) accused the government of ignoringseveral of its demands, including one to stop house-tohouse searches by paramilit-ary rangers in MQM strougholds in Karachi.

The government hasn't even bothered to reply to our demands," Ajmal Dehlvi. head of the MQM negotiation team, said in Karachi.

No further talks were scheduled.

Many people fear an end to talks will lead to more violence in Karachi, Pakistati's financial centre, which already is reeling from target killings and daily gun battles, usually between MQM sup-

porters and police.

Entire neighbourhoods of Karachi have been turned into battle zones, and financial institutions and the Karachi stock exchange are routinely shut down by strike

Ms. Bhutta's gavernment opened talks with her militant opponents July 11, 1995, they are denied quality jobs after nearly two months of

fighting that left about 500 people dead, most of them caught in the crussfire.

Since talks began, another 165 people have been killed. Little progress was made during the four rounds of talks, and neither side appears willing to compromise.

The MQM demands more rights and better opportunities for the Mubajirs, who immigrated to Pakistan after Indian partition in 1947. The immigrants make up about 70 per cent of Karachi's 12 mil-Jion people.

MOM members sav and education. They want the

Muhajirs to be recognised as a fifth ethnic group, believing that would bring equality. Successive governments have refused.

Ms. Bhutto blames much of the violence on the largest MQM faction led by Altaf Hussein, a charismatic 39-year-old living in self-imposed exile in London. A breakaway faction of the MQM known as the Haqiqi further complicates the situa-

The two factions regularly clash, and Mr. Hussein's group accuses Ms. Bbutto's government of creating the Haqiqi group to destroy

Norway sees upturn in Palestinian fortunes

OSLO (R) -- Norway said on Monday there had been a significant turnaround in the Palestinian self-rule budget thanks to closer cooperation between the Palestine National Authority (PNA). Israel and donor countries.

Norway, which chairs an international consortium of donors for aid to the Palestinian self-rule areas, said the final size of the budget deficit would depend on further economie and political developments in the remainder of the

We are impressed with the budget discipline of the Palestinian administration and especially the ministry of finance," Jan Egeland, state secretary in the Norwegian Foreign Ministry, told Reuters. He cited reports from the Palestinian authority and the World Bank.

budget deficit will go down rather than up. The worst is over. We have reached the turning point thanks to the Palestinian Anthority, Israel and donor countries," Mr.

In April a meeting between the Palestinian Authority, Israel and the donor community forecast a budget deficit this year for the selfgoverning areas of 136 mil-

Weak indirect and direct taxation systems and poor economic management by the Palestinian Authority had been exacerbated by slow clearance of excise duties and other revenues owed to the authority by Israel and long periods of border closures. "The situation was fairly bleak. We were faced with a looked as if it was growing,"

But the April meetings provided a framework for the three sides to strengthen cooperation and obtained detailed commitments for Israel's support to Palestinian economic development including free passage of goods across borders.

Contributions pledged by donor states — \$2.5 billion between 1994 and 1999 -also have begun to materialise after a slow start.

In March, Norway sent donor countries an urgent reminder to pay up or risk undermining the Middle East peace process.

Donor countries contribute into the Hoist Fund, set up in honour of the former Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan J. Holst who died after brokering the 1993 peace talks between Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Orgamisation (PLO).

"We bave expenditures from the Holst Fund of close to \$15 million per month and from being continually handto-mouth before, we are now able to cover that (expenditure)," Mr. Egeland said.

The major donor nations are the European Union, Japan, the United States, Saudi Arabia and Norway. In the most recent commitment Saudi Arabia pledged \$17.5 million to the Palestinian Au-

thority and police force. 'For the first time we will be able to pay many thousands of public-sector employees on time. I feel confident we will avoid this year the problems of last year," Mr. Egeland said.

King, Crown Prince discuss help to to Bosnia

(Continued from page 1) King Husseio said that Jor-

dan's relations with Arab Gulf dan's relations with Arab Chil countries are improving and de-scribed as "good" relations with Syria and Egypt.

His Majesty reiterated Jor-dan's readiness to extend all possible support to the Palesti-nian people in their Dursui of

nian people in their pursuit of their national rights.

The King said the Kingdom stresses in all forums the necessi-

ty of ending the suffering of the Iraqi people, adding that Iraq "has its importance and role in

The King and the Crown Prince emphasised the sovereignty of the Kingdom and the inde-pendence of its decisions, adding that the policies Jordan has followed have secured its future and ended the threats that sur-

rounded it in the past few years. Responding to a question on the process of "normalisation" of ties with Israel, the King spoke again of his bewilderment at the use of the word "normalisation," saying that there is either a state of war or a state of peace and that Jurdan and Israel have en-

tered a state of peace. The King said that buman infears and could be a factor help-ing the Palestinians in their negotiations with Israel.

The King criticised anew pro-fessional unions' involvement in political activities "at the expense" of their professional responsibilities.

He said the unions have no right to dictate norms of be-haviour on their members, indicating his support of a legislative change that would no longer make union membership obligatory for members of the various

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker said Sunday that the government is "studying" legislation with view to introducing changes that would guarantee the freedom of choice of unions

Some unions said they would dismiss members who "normal-

ise" ties with Israel. Some laws ban professionals from practising their profession if they are not members of the

unions. A decision by any union to dismiss a member for dealing with Israel will technically prevent him/her from working.
"Who gives the unions the right to judge people," the King said, urging the unions to focus more on raising the professional

standards of their members and

addressing the problems which they face.

The King said the majority of Jordanians are supportive of the Kingdom's policies, which are carefully articulated to serve and

protect the interests of the King-King Hussein urged the minority to respect the views of the majority in accordance with the

"The people are thirsty for information," the King said, adding that some in the media are still "living in the old times" and urging newspapers to pre-sent credible material that offers an objective picture of events. Addressing the economic situation, the King said what is

important is not to "become frus-trated and frustrate the people." The King said the Kingdom will be able to realise the economic opportunities of peace within three to five years. But he stressed the need to make the necessary reforms at all levels, including the "worn out" parts of the bureaucracy, in order to render the Kingdom able to utilise the opportunities that will be

Talking to representatives of the local media in the meeting that lasted for over two hours, the Crown Prince pointed to

positive international sentiment lowards the region but said that International investment will depend oo the area's stability and regional cooperation.

Market forces are encourage ing but the political stands need to be changed," the Crowo Prince said.

Prioce Hassan stressed the importance of articulating well-thought out and comprehensive visions for the development of the region instead of narrowing the focus to limited projects and

aid io the traditional sense but is pursuing cooperation in imementing regional projects. "The slow pace of movement is not only by the international community. The donors are searching for solid, clear ground for

He said Jordan is not seeking

investment," he said. The Crown Prince spoke of the importance of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) eco-nomic summit, which will be held in Amman in October, stressing that the burden of preparing for the summit rests with the government as well as the private sec-

The King said that "we need the initiative of the people. The government cannot do every-thing."

Japan, Americans argue over undersea treasure trove

By Variora Bennett Reuter

LONDON - A rusting Japanese submarine car-rying a fabulous treasure in gold has caused a row between .Tokyo and the Americans who discovered it half a century after a U.S. torpedo consigned it to the

The giant I-52 vessel sank in the Atlantic Ocean in June 1944, at the height of World War II. All 94 crew - and more than two tonnes of gold destined for Japan's waπime ally. Nazi Germany - went down

The following day when allied forces searched the area thousands of miles west of the Cape Verde Islands, they found only scraps of silk and a Japanese sandal floating on

the water. The submarine's exact whereabouts remained a mystery for the next five decades, despite estimates by the U.S. fighter-homher which destroyed it, the nearby U.S. aircraft carrier Bogue and a German escort submarine which escaped.

Its cargo alone is worth \$25 million at modern prices and hundreds of tonnes of other metals are also on board. The metals were to have been used by Japan to pay Germany for new military technology.

Earlier this year U.S. maritime researcher Paul Tidwell used the Russian research ship Yuzh. morgeologiya to trace the submarine. It rests on the sea bed 5.000 metres below the surface and 2.000 km west of the Cape Verde

Mr. Tidwell wants to remove the gold and if possible raise the craft. The price tag tif up to \$8 million would leave plenty of change from the gold's

Mr. Tidwell told the New York Times he believed Tokyo would make no claim to the war booty which, according to a manifest radioed from Tokyo to Berlin and decoded by war-time U.S. interceptors, consists of 146 ingots packed in 49 metal boxes.

Japan's collective mem-ory of World War II, in which it was on the losing side, is painful and traumatic. A new generation of Japanese adults have turned their backs on the military values of their fore-

But Japan has made it clear that there were limits to its shyness about the past. It wants the gold too. "As a general rule, both the vessel and its cargo are definitely the property of the government of Japan." said an official of the Japanese, Finance Minis-

try's (overseas) National Property Division. 'In this case we think we have certain rights under international law." Mr. Tidwell told Reuters by telephone from his U.S. home at Centreville, Virginia. "But if there's disagreement I think it will be

worked out. Mr. Tidwell prefers to stress the historical value of his find, "We've been keeping the Japanese notified since way back in May, we've been keeping them informed. If we did raise the submarine, we would

return it to Japan. "I think the Japanese are going to get behind this project. Now we have to concen-

trate on what really hap-

engaged in the secretive ex-

change of materials and

pened in the Atlantic 51 years ago," he said. Historians have never photographed the 1-52. At 10x metres long it was bigger than any U.S. submarine of the day. Until it was sunk it was

> technologies between Nazi leader Adolf Hitler and Japan's Emperor Hirohito. Although allied ships controlled the surface of the Atlantic Ocean by 1944, the balance of power had not yet been decided under the

> vast cloak of oceanic cover. The Germans and Japanese used this watery veil to transport war material, supplies and payments between themselves — a trade route snaking halfway round the globe whose continued existence was of serious concern to the Allies by June 1944,

> As well as gold loaded in Japan in March 1944, the 1-52 picked up 228 tonnes of tin. molybdenum and tunsten. 54 tunnes of raw rubber and three tonnes of quinine on a route past Singapore and Africa to the Nazi-held French port of Lorient.

> It surfaced only at night to recharge batteries, travelling underwater by

But Allied codebreakers had mastered the German-Japanese ciphers dealing with the 1.52's route and

When it surfaced on June

23 for a mid-Atlantic rendezvous with a German submarine, a U.S. avenger

bomber swooped. Raising the 1-52 may stillnot be possible, even now the site has been discovered. Mr. Tidwell said. It is stuck in a three metre crater created by the impact

of its landing. The technology which Mr. Tidwell intends to use to raise it is similar to techniques used to recover the Titanic, the ocean liner which settled more than two miles, underwater after sinking in 1912.

Raising the 1-52 will be

more difficult. "It's identical, but this submarine is 2 km deeper than the Titanic. We re excited about trying to meet that challenge, hut... we

might not manage to salvage this one.
Mr. Tidwell plans a photographic trip in the next six months to establish

what he can do next. The families of the Japanese crew, who were likely to oppose the salvage of the submarine by a private organisation from a foreign country, have not yet been identified.

Mr. Tidwell, himself a former military man who served in Vietnam two decades ago, said he did not expect to find human remains on the sunken

warship. "We don't expect to find any remains there. The Titanic showed there were no remains," he said, "The reasons are a combination of depth and the water being mineral poor, so everything breaks up and goes

NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkey wants more protection from Kurds in Germany

BONN (R) - Turkey's ambassador to Bonn, Volkan Vural, un Munday demanded tougher action against Kurdish separatists after firebombers attacked Turkish properties in Germany for the seventh-successive night. Arsonists harled petrol bombs at Turkish travel agencies in the cities of Bochnm and Bremen but failed to break the windows or cause substantial damage, police said. Police attribute most of the more than two dozen attacks to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), fighting Ankara for independence or autonomy in southeast Turkey and banned in Germany for staging several series of violent protests here. Mr. Vural told German radio be understood that police could not post themselves in front of every Turkish shop. Germany is home to some two million Turks. It hosts about 400,000 Kurds, most of whom are from Turkey. But be said authorities must clamp down on PKK sympathisers.

Malaysia wavers on arms pledge for Bosnia

*KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Malaysia on Monday shied away from reaffirming its offer to sell arms to associan government forces, insisting it was merely preparing contingency plans in case of a U.N. withdrawal from Bosnia. "Arms should be the last thing ... We are not there to go to war," Defence Minister Syed Hamid Albar told reporters at Kuala Lumpur International Airport after returning from a one-week trip to the United States and Canada to visit military aircraft makers. His remarks contradicted a statement by bis deputy, Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan, un Saturday that Malaysia would meet with the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC)'s contact group in New York soon to discuss the Bosnian government's arms needs. Mr. Abdullah was reported by the New Straits Times on Sunday as saying a joint committee set up by Malaysia's defence and foreign ministries would meet the OIC contact group to "discuss the financing for the

purchase of weaponry and logistics." Military kills 11 Kurds in southeast Turkey

ANKARA (AFP) - Turkish military forces in recent days have killed 11 armed Kurdish separatist militants in separate raids in southeastern Turkey, authorities announced Monday. Army troops attacked hideouts of the separatist Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in the Hakkari province near Iraq and Iran and in the towns of Tunceli, Batman, and Bitlis in the southeast, the official Anatolian News Agency said. The agency was quoting from an official statement from the Diyarbakir provincial office in charge of coordinating the government struggle against the PKK.

Yemen says lift Iraq embargo

SANAA (R) — Yemen on Monday called for lifting of United Nations sanctions against Iraq, saying Baghdad had implemented all Security Council resolutions related to its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. "Just as our people rejected Iraq's invasion and occupation of Knwait, we reject the continuation of the embargo of Iraq after it has implemented and abided by U.N. resolutions," the official Yemeni newspaper Al Thawra said in an editorial.

Israel, France expand double taxation treaty

TEL AVIV (R) - Israel and France signed on Monday an expanded version of their 1963 treaty to stop double taxation, a spokeswoman for Israel's Foreign Ministry said. The spokeswoman said the most significant change concerns inheritance tax. French citizens who bequeath money to the Israeli government and non-profit organisations in Israel such as universities will not be taxed in France, she

Lesotho asks for Egypt's support in bid for ADB presidency

CAIRO (AFP) - The Foreign Minister of Lesotho, K.A. Maone, said Munday he had asked for Egypt's support in his country's bid to assume the presidency of the African Development Bank (ADB). Mr. Maope, who arrived here Sunday for a three-day tifficial visit, told the media that he bad passed on the request to Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa during their meeting Monday. Morocco, Mozambique and Nigeria have also announced their candidacy for the ADB presidency...

Argentine, Syria could open talks on reactor sale

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - Argentina might open negotiations with Syria next week in Washington on the sale of a small nuclear reactor for medical reasearch, diplomatic sources said here Monday. A diplomat said the discussions could begin on August II in the U.S. capital and then resume August 2I somewhere in Argentina, probably in Buenos Aires. The diplomat, who asked not to be named, said Argentina would ask for the green light from the United States given fears expressed by Israel over the transfer of nuclear technology to its Arab rivals. There was no official confirmation from the Argentine government of the dates for the talks. The U.S. State Department and the Argentine embassy in Washington also had no comment.

Court studies claim Gonzalez linked to death squads

MADRID (AFP) — Spain's supreme court Monday started to examine a dossier of claims linking Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzaler to death squads which targeted alleged Basque separatists, judicial sources said. According to reports leaked to Spanish newspapers, the dossier drawn up by investigating judge Baltasar Garzon contains "indications" that Gonzalez was involved with the death squads from the Anti-Terrorist Liberation Groups (GAL). It also has "indication" linking former interior minister Jose Barrionuevo and two other current Socialist deputies, Narcis Serra and Txiki Benegas, to the GAL units. The supreme court is the only court able to rule on issues involving members of the government or people normally convered by parliamentary immunity. If it decides the dossier is serious enough to warrant proceedings at such high level, it will ask for immunity to be lifted. However if the court rules there is not enough evidence, the case will be handed back to Garzon. Indicial sources said the key allegation was a claim by Ricardo Damborenea, a former Socialist Party official in the Basque region, who said Mr. Gonzalez not only "knew about" the GAL but was "not opposed" to their strategy. The GAL are blamed for the deaths of at least 22 suspected separatists in both northern Spain and southern France between 1983 and 1987. Mr. Damborenea himself was arrested in February and later released on bail on charges of kidnapping and attempted murder. The sources said holidays meant the court would probably not make a ruling before September. Garzon was meanwhile allowed to pursue inquiries "if there is an

Japan factory explosion injures 27

TOKYO (R) - About 27 people were injured in an explosion at a metal products factory north of Tokyo on Monday morning, a police spokesman said. "Most of those injured are believed to be factory workers, and the number could go up," he said. It was unclear how serious the injuries were, he said. The plant is owned by Mitsubishi Materials Corp. the police spokesman said. A spokesman for the firm said officials from the company's bead office were enable to make contact with the factory in Saitama prefecture, 25km north of Tokyo. They said the explosion was believed to have taken place in a section that manufactures seamless pipes from alloys composed of copper, nickel and steel. It appears that production has stopped, be said. It is the firm's only facility manufacturing the product, he said. Aerial footage broadcast un television showed that part of the factory's roof had been blown

6 Egyptians drown while trying to save chicken

CAIRO (AP) — Six Egyptians drowned in southern Egypt Monday while trying to save a chicken that fell into a well. An 18-year-old farmer climbed into the water to save the chicken and drowned after apparently being trapped by an undercurrent in the well, which was about 2.5 metres wide. Two brothers and his sister, none of whom could swim well, went in one by one to help him, but also drowned, police said. The family's mother then got help from two elderly farmers, but they were apparently snagged by the same undercurrent. All six - as well as the chicken, which survived - were later pulled out of the well, which was about 20 metres deep. The incident occured in Nazlat Imara, a poor village in the southern province of Sohag, about 390 kilometrese south of Cairo.

Cairo meeting discusses setting up business council

CAIRO (R) — Businessmen at the 1991 Madnd peace and government officials from Egypt, Jordan, the PLO and Israel attended a meeting in Cairo on Monday to discuss setting up a regional business council, Egyptian foreign ministry officials said.

Egypt's Assistant Foreign Minister Raouf Saad said the meeting had been suggested Casablanca economic summit held in Morocco last year. He added that the business council should be approved by the second Middle East economic summit to be held in Amman next Octo-

Egypt. Jordan, and the PLO have all signed separate peace treaties with Israel. They are also engaged in the multilateral peace talks with the Jewish state which began

As well as the political talks, participants agreed to form five separate committees on issues of regional

Syna and Lebanon, which have vet to sign peace only two Arab countries not to take part in any of the multilateral talks committees, saying political agreement should be reached first.

Mr. Saad told reporters that Egypt believed "comprehensive economic cooperation cannot be achieved except in the framework of comprebensive, just and

He added that Egypt was ready to help in discussing

"all means to support region-al cooperation after peace is

Mr. Saad said the committee will hold other meetings in the coming stage to pre-pare for establishment of the proposed business council before the Amman summit.

A source at the Egyptian foreign ministry who refused to be named said Monday's meeting was low-key and more time was needed until agreement could be reached on what kind of projects the participants could cooperate

Representatives of the United States, sponsor of the Middle East peace process, and the European Union took part in the meeting, the foreign ministry said.

Saudi inflation up in first quarter

DUBAI (R) - Rises in the prices of utilities and petrol triggered an unusually steep 4.5 per cent increase in the cost of living in Saudi Arabia during the first three months of 1995, official figures

The figures from the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA), obtained by Reuters on Monday, showed the general cost of living index for middle income people rose to 115.2 points at end March from 110.2 points at the end of December.

The figures from the Kingdom's central bank also showed the index rose by 5.1 per cent on an annual basic compared with the end of March 1994 when it stood at 109.6 points.

The rise is a direct result of the increase in the prices of petrol and utilities. It will probably not set a trend,"

The Saudi government, suffering cash-flow shortages due to weak oil prices, in January forecast a \$4 billion deficit in a \$40 billion budget that cut spending by six per

It introduced price rises for basic services and cut subsidies in a series of revenueboosting measures aimed at diminishing total dependence

on oil earnings.
At the end of 1994 the index had risen less than one per cent in the previously largely inflation-proof oil exporter to 110.2 points from 109.4 points at the end of

The SAMA figures showed the cost of living index for housing, which includes electricity and water, rose nearly seven per cent in the quarter to 124 points up from 116 points at the end of December and 112.8 points at end-

It showed the index for transport and communications up an even steeper 23.4 per cent to 128.7 points at end-March from 105.3 points in December and 104.4 at end-Marcb 1994.

and education were bardly The middle income category covers consumers who spend between 2,500 riyals

The indices for other cate-

gories like food, medical care

(\$666) and 10,000 riyals (\$2,666) monthly. The index, with a base of 100 points in 1988, covers the kingdom's 10 main cities.

SAMA figures show that the retail import price index for the first quarter of 1995 was little changed at 106.1 points from 106.2 in the same period of 1994, indicating domestic factors were behind

the cost of living increase.

U.S. official calls for new methods for settling trade disputes

TOKYO (AP) — Hoping to avoid more high-profile show-downs, the United Stales is seeking new methods to head off and solve trade disputes with Japan, a top U.S. trade official said

Jeffrey Garten, U.S. undersecretary of commerce for international trade, spelled out what he called a strategic framework to a more positive phase in trade relations between the two giant

The proposals, which Mr. Gar-ten was to present later Monday to his counterpart in the Ministry of International Trade, Yoshihiro Sakamoto, come amid one of the most rancorous periods of trade relations between the two

countries in recent memory. Less than a week after the two sides reached agreement in late lune on auto trade, one of their most biller and drawn-out lights, the U.S. trade representative's office said it was opening an investigation into allegations that Fuji Photo Film Co. was shutting man Kodak in the Japanese mar-

Under Mr. Garten's plan, the two governments would work more closely to ensure that existing agreements work, consult regularly on trade strategies, and seek more involvement from the private sectors of both countries in determining sources of tension before they rage into full-blown

THE Daily Crossword by Manny Miller

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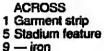
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Kuwait must spend heavily to retain oil role

field, the world's second big-

ure of its giant oilfields since

without it production capac-

ity could start to fall in six to

eight years' time, diplomats

say.
"If they want to keep their influence in OPEC, big

money will have to go on installing these technolo-

gies," one diplomat said be-

fore the anniversary of Iraq's

invasion on August 2, 1990.
"Like middle-aged fields

elsewhere, the output of the

of export revenue. It has 10

per cent of global crude oil

reserves and accounts for

three per cent of world pro-

Diplomats say a fall in

natural oilflow pressure in the wells early in the 21st

century could lower produc-

tion capacity if methods such

as water injection or gas lift

They said Kuwait had

perhaps two years before it

had to arrange contracts for installing the hardware in ma-

jor fields since actual con-,

struction and training

Kuwaitis in managing assisted extraction would

are not installed.

plines required."

duction.

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait which spent billions of dollars repaining oil industry damage from Iraq's occupation five years ago, must now spend billions more just to retain its role in oil's big league, let alone expand it, diplomats

say.

The Gulf state must contemolate heavy investment in

Aggressive competition spurs UAE retail banking

DUBAI (R) — Retail banking in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is developing fast as fiercer competition between the country's 47 foreign and local banks ensures that customers get more of what they ask for, bankers

said on Monday.
"Retail banking is in the process of significant change and in two years time it will be very, very different," said Bnan Frednck, UAE senior manager at the British Bank of the Middle East (BBME), a unit of HSBC Holdings PLC 0005.HK.

"There is tough competition between banks mainly for consumer basiness like personal loans and credit cards. Banks are trying to follow the latest technology, Commercial Bank of Dubai senior Manager Ibrabim Abdullah said.

Until recently banks in the UAE have concentrated on corporate business and trade finance, particularly in Dubai - the trade centre of the Gulf. But greater competition in the past few years bas seen the product range grow and the methods of marketing it to the public become more advanced.
"The range of products will

continue to increase and the way of selling them to you will change," Mr. Fredric said, referring to aggressive advertising campaigns run by a number of banks.

Customers bave only re-latively recently been able to-do their banking by tele-phone in the UAE, and this only applies to clients of a few banks. Personalised credit cards and schemes tailored specifically for expatriates, who make up about 75 per cent of the two million pulation, are also new.

Only two banks - Emirates Bank International and BBME - have linked their automated teller machines (AIMS) so far, but bankers said the eventual linking of all ATMS to a central network is planned.

The Bank leading the retail revolution is the UAE's biggest privately-owned bank, Mashreqbank. It was the first to introduce evening banking - something recently followed by standard chartered bank, a unit of Standard Chartered PLC Stan. L.

Another innovative move by Mashreq was the launch earlier this year of new savings certificates which do not earn interest but make their holders eligible for a monthly lottery. Residents said this could be particularly attrac-tive to some Muslim savers who object to interest as a form of usury that is frowned upon in Islam.

A Mashreqbank spokes-man said UAE retail banking was "coming of age... until recently corporate banking has led the industry."

"There's a big move to the technology side," another banker said, adding that an open economy with low customs duties made accessibility to the latest technology

But bankers said that as products become more developed, so banks tend to get more choosy in picking their

They said care must be taken not to become so cboosy that they exclude lowincome earners from their customer base.

Many expatriates are employed as labourers and domestic workers in the oilnich emirates, where they earn low salaries. "It would be a great shame

if this development (greater competition and more products) led to the lower paid being excluded from the banking system as has happened in some parts of the United States," Mr. Fredrick said.

Whilst we move towards more professional personal banking, we have to ensure that we don't throw the baby out with the bath water," be

take several more years. This in the western oilfields. The secondary recovery methods included super-giant Burgan to augment the natural press-

> gest Oilfield, they added. Starting later would nsk allowing maximum production capacity to dip from its current plateau of 2.4 million to 2.5 million barrels per day (bpd). a development that could erode Kuwait's influence in the oil market.

Production capacity and size of reserves are fundamental factors in OPEC negotiations on member states' output quotas.

fields at some stage will start to decline naturally. The technologies to sustain and Kuwait has never had to bother too much about the secondary recovery used raise output from such wells are complex and Kuwait has little expertise in the disciwidely elsewhere because its fields are perhaps the industry's easiest and most efficient to operate. The country of 1.8 million depends on oil for 94 per cent The fields lie in huge, shal-

low deposits under flat desert close to sea export terminals. Natural pressure has kept them pumping for 50 years. Crude output costs are 70 cents a barrel. The country, confident that demand for its crude will

rise in coming years, plans to spend \$15 billion to raise capacity to 3.5 million bpd by the year 2005. But diplomats say a track record of slow decision-

making in arranging big con-struction contracts could delay the expansion. A case in point is a \$400 million contract for construc-

tion of two gathening centres

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1995 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have to be more aware of what your true potential today is if you are to gain the big success you desire.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Find more modern ways of operating today so that you can become more successful and forget the obsolete.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A partner has been detrimental to your best interests for a long time, and today you know how to

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Early today handle career affairs which need solving, and then get at the tasks which are ahead of LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Use a more modern talent if you want to be more successful. Also get rid of some deep-rooted idea which.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get busy at practical affairs today so that you need not suffer lack or delays where money is

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Go to experts for advice. on how best to gain your most personal wishes, and then also use

good judgement. SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get that sit

from the past nicely cleared up during day bours today and then study into new outlets this evening. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Work on some longterm project during this day, but study more important goals

this evening to get ahead in your career. AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get that business completed this morning, and tonight you know how to improve your

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Be sure you follow the Golden Rule during today and see how you can improve your lot in life this

Birthstone of July: Ruby - Tiger's Eye

contract, due to be awarded a year ago, has still not been settled.

Another potential complication is the role of foreign firms. Secondary extraction is developing constantly and only big oil companies have the latest technology. Kuwait has technical assist-

ance contracts with British Petroleum and America's Chevron Corp but remains one of the few OPEC states without international oil company specialists closely involved in production. Kuwaiti oilmen last year submitted a brief paper to the

government suggesting ways of developing wells with foreign help in return for granting foreigners some form of par-The paper was prompted in part by the notion that long-term joint ventures with Western companies would give Gulf war allies a con-

tinuing stake in the emirate's

existence and stability. The executives from Kuwait Petroleum Corp

(KPC) were told to think again - the security motive is no longer valid in view of Kuwait's strengthened postwar military ties with its

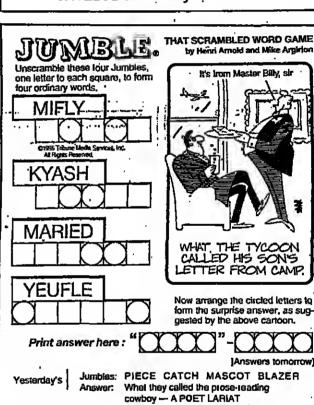
But diplomats say far from closing the door on a foreign oil role in Kuwait, the government's request for new ideas has given KPC the opportunity to argue for secondary recovery investment and the need for Western suppliers and partners subjects apparently outside the immediate scope of the

first paper. Kuwait bas already taken preliminary steps for water injection and gas lift in Raudhatain and Sabriyah fields in northern Kuwait and Minagish in the west, diplomats say

In other projects KPC wants to expand domestic refining capacity by a fifth to one million bpd. establish 400,000 bpd of capacity in Asia through joint ventures and boost European refining operations by up to a third to 300,000 bpd.



"This CD-ROM is just for husbands. It contains 5,000 apologies and excuses for every occasion."



Peanuts





Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



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Government pay raises contingent on rise in costs of living

Minister of Finance Basel Jardaneh said the government will increase civil scrvants' annual increments in case it is proven that there is a rise in living costs. The minister was quoted by Chairmao of the Lower _House of Parliament's Finance Committee Hashem Al Dabbas as saying the government was doing a study on the cost of living and that the outcome of the study will determine its decision on the issue. Following a committee mecting with Mr. Jardanch and Industry and Trade Minister Ali Abul. Ragbeb, Mr. Dabbas said the two sides agreed to request the presence of the director general of the Statistics Department, which is doing the study, in an upcoming meeting of the committee. He said the committee discussed inits meeting draft laws on the income tax, the sales tax and investments. In view of the importance of the three laws to the investment climate in the Kingdom and the need to quickly approve them before the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit (MENA) which will be held in Amman in October, the committee decided to discuss the three laws as one group, Mr. Dabbas said. He added that the minister of finance told

the committee that the income tax draft law will

positively reflect on citi-

zens. The minister told the committee that the draft

law will provide for reduc-

ing income tax charged to

people with low incomes.

especially those with an

annual income of JD

6,000. The minister also

said the law would reduce

the income tax charged to

banks and companies from

30 per cent to 15 per ceot

(Al Ra'i).

** The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) has allocated JD 200,000 for the establishment of new charity societies in various parts of the Kingdom. GUVS. which Tuesday marks its 36th anniversary, has also allocated JD 500,000 in assistance to existing societies and JD 640,000 to carry out various charity and income-generating projects (Al Ra'i).

** The first Palestinian products fair currently held in Amman is still auracting large numbers of people. On its third day, some 12,000 people visited the fair. Visitors said the fair gives them the opportunity to, get familiarised with Palestinian products and helps enhance Jordanian-Palestinian trade relations' (Al Dustour).

** The Jordan Petroleum Company's profits during 1994 totalled JD 4.95 million, compared to JD 4.092 million in 1993, thus reflecting a 17 per cent increase. The company will distribute JD 3,840 million of the profits to shareholders. The company produced a total of 2.9 tonnes of fuel in 1994 (Al Ra'i).

Asians remain top trade partners of Dubai

DUBAI (AFP) — Japan, China and other Asian countries have remained key trade partners of the Gulf emirate of Dubai despite competition from the West, an official report showed on Monday.

Japan topped the list of

exporters to Dubai, a position it has monopolised for several years despite the strong yen.

Its exports stood at 1.48 billion dirhams (\$403 million) in the first quarter of 1995, according to the report by the Dubai chamber of commerce and industry and the stgate statistics department, published in the daily Al Bayan.

The figure is lower than that during the first quarter of 1994, when exports stood at around 1.91 billion dirhams (\$520 million).

Japan's exports to Dubai and other Gulf states include mainly vehicles, electronics, home appliances and other manufactured products. Its exports to the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) dipped to around eight billion dollars in 1994 from \$9 billion in 1993 due to the stronger

High exports to Dubai. dubbed the Hong Kong of the Middle East, indicate strong demand in the whole Gulf as the emirate is the main reexport centre in the oil-rich regioo and handles more than 20 per cent of the Gulf's non-oil trade.

China, once negligible in the lucrative Gulf market, has become the second part-ner of Dubai, with exports of 1.2 billioo dirhams (\$326 million) in the first quarter of 1995, according to the report.

China replaced the United States, which fell back to third place with exports to Dubai totalling around 1.12 billion dirhams (\$305 mil-

The report showed exports by Japan, China and the United States accounted for nearly one third of Dubai's total imports of 12.1 billion dirhams (\$3.29 billion).

South Korea emerged as the sixth biggest exporter to Dubai, with sales of nearly 964 million dirhams (\$262.6 million). India, Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand and other Asian nations also boosted exports. But France, which was

among the five top partners of the emirate a few years ago, slipped to the 10th rank, with exports of 393 million dirhams (\$107 million). Italy and other European states also lost ground to the Iran, despite its island dis-

pute with the United Arab Emirates (UAE), maintained its position as the top export market for Dubai. Reexports stood at 985 million dirhams (\$268.4 million), accounting for around 33 per cent of Dubai's total reexports in the first quarter of 1995.

Iran's exports to Dubai stood at 253 million dirhams (\$69 million) in the first quarter of 1995 compared with 214 million dirhams (\$58.3 million) in the same period of

Jordan Times Financial In co-operation with Markets Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets



Сителсу	New Yeak Close Per 2817195	Tokyo Close Pan 31/7/95
Sterling Pound	1,6010	1.6022*
Dentsche Mark	1.5408	1.3817
Swise Franc	1.1488	1.1487
French Franc	4.7810	4,7837*
Japanore Yes	84,11	. \$4.20
European Current Unit	1,3460	1.3443**

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	& MTHS	12 MYFE
U.S. Dollar	5.68	5.68	5.68	5.68
Sterling Pound .	6.50	6.62	. 6.75	6.93
Deutsche Mark	4.31	4.31	4.75	4.37
Swins Franc	2.37	2.50	7.62	7.85
French Franc	6.21	6.06	5.98	5.93
Japanese Yen	0.62	0.56	0.50	0.50
European Currency Unit	5.48	5.93	5.90	6.00

Precious Metals			Date; 31/7/1995		
Metal	USD/Or	JD/Gm"	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	383.45	7.50	Silver	5.09	0.120

1 41114
31/7/1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar .	0_6970	0.6990
Sterling Pound	1.1155	1.12/1
Deutsche Mack	0.5035	0.5060
Swits Franç	0.4055	0.6085
French Franc .	0.1455	0.1462
Japanese Yen*	0.7274	0.7915
Datch Galider	0.4494	0.4516
Swedish Krona	*****	447444
IlaHan Lira ^c	0.0439	.0.0441
Belgion Franc	******	

Other Currencies	Date	31/7/1999
Currency	3id	Offer
Bahraini Dinor	1.8330	1.8450
Lebanese Lira*	0,042170	0.045070
Saudi Rival	0.185S	0.1869
Kuwaiti Diner	2.3000	2.3600
Qalari Riyel	0.1902	0.1915
Egyptha Pound	0.1900	0.2160
Omani Riyal	1.2010	1:8200
UAF. Dirham	0.1288	0:1901
Greek Drackma*	0.2850	0:3050
Cypriot Pound .	1.5450	1.6030

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One U.S. dollar 1.3682/92 1.3808/19 1.5472/82 1.1474/84 28.38/42 4.7788/38 1586.2/1.2 88.01/11 7.0525/25

Canadian dollar Deutschemarks Dutch guilders Swiss francs Belgian francs French francs Italian lire Japanese yen Swedish crowns Norwegian crowns Danish crowns

One Sterling 1.6018/28 U.S. dollar One ounce of gold \$383.40/383.90 U.S. dollars

6.1200/50

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Banks closer to \$680 m Qatar gas project loan

DUBAI (R) — A \$680 mil-tion loan for the Qatar Li-will allow Qatargas to install quefield Gas Company (Qatargas) will be ready for general syndication by late October, banking sources

said on Monday. The loan will be a major step forward for Qatar's \$6 billion Qatargas liquefield natural gas (LNG) project, the biggest single project fi-nance scheme in the Middle

The loan for the "up-

COMPANY'S MAKE

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RHEAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT
AUGUS BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN
PHILADELPHIA INVASTMENT BANK.

SECTOR

INBURANCE SECTOR

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three offshore wellhead platforms and lay a 82 kilometre pipeline which will deliver the field's gas to an onshore liquefaction plant at Ras Laf-

the Qatari capital Doha. Japanese banks, led by the export-import bank of Japan (Jeximbank) and the ministry of trade and industry, signed a \$1.9 billion non recourse

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which mainly involves the construction of the liquefaction plant.

Earnings from Qatargas, which will start exporting to fan, 70 kilometres north of Japan in 1997 by exploiting the gas reserves of the massive offshore north field, is central to Qatar's economic future as it crude oil reservoirs mature.

Banking sources said that project loan to Oatargas in the terms of the \$680 million

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April to develop the "down-stream" part of the project after talks in London over the after talks in London over the last two months between the four main banks behind the issue - France's Credit Lyonnais Crlpi. Pa and Societe Generale Sogn Pa, Britain' Barclays Bank Barc. L and Bahrain-based Gulf In-

ternational Bank. By September the terms (of the loan) will be finalised which will allow a general syndication by late October." banker who requested anonymity said.

Qatargas is a joint venture of state Qatar General Petroleum Corporation (QGPC) which holds 65 per cent equity in the project and U.S. Mobil Corp. Mob. N. French Total SA Tote. Pa (each 10 per cent), Japan's Mitsui and Co. Ltd 8031.T and Marubeni Corp. 8002.T (each 7.5 per cent).

Total 15 responsible for managing the upstream

The upstream loan will be underwritten by a total of nine banks and is expected to receive guarantees from the French, UK, Italian, German and U.S. export credit agencies, bankers said.

Loan repayment period is over 10-12 years but the interest rate was not disclosed

The upstream loan had been expected earlier this year but has been delayed because of complexities over repayment terms which will come from sales of oil condensates produced at Qatargas' 100 square kilometre north field concession rather the sales of the finished LNG to

Condensate prices are more vulnerable to volatility in internacional spot markets and supply contracts are much shorter than those frequently seen in the LNG business

Qatargas has already secured a four million tonnes a year LNG 25 year supply contract with Chubu Electric Power Company 9502.T and additional sales of two million tonnes year have also been agreed with seven other Japanese utilities.

Qatar owns the third largest reserves of gas in the world with the north field holding an estimated nine trillion cubic metres of gas,

Refinery reports JD 4.9 m profit for '94

AMMAN (AP) - The Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. Ltd. on Monday reported a profit of JD 4.95 million for last year, up JD 860,000 from 1993's profits. Abdul Wahab Zoubi, the

company's director general, said profit could have been even higher "if the government did not interfere to set the margin of profit and

Mr. Zoubi told the Associated Press negotiations were underway with the govern-ment to "commercialise our operations."

The government owns 15 per cent of the shares and the private sector holds the rest of the company, Jordan's only refinery.

The government, which sets the prices of the company's oil products, guaran-tees the firm's minimum gains and determines the margin of profit distributed to share holders.

Jordan does not have any known oil reserves. It imports 55,000 barrels of crude oil and 25,000 barrels of fuel oil daily from neighbouring

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Agassi rallies from first-set loss to beat Sampras, win Canadian Open

MONTREAL (AP) Andre Agassi won the latest duel with American rival Pete Sampras on Sunday, rallying after a first-set loss to win 3-6, 6-2, 6-3 in a hattle of no. 1 vs. No 2 in the Canadian Open final.
Agassi, 25, defended the

title he won last year in Toronto and claimed his third Canadian Open Championship in four years. He is the first repeat winner since lvan Lendl won three straight Canadian titles from 1987 to 1989.

This (tournament) means a lot to me," said Agassi, who won the Canadian Open in Toronto last year and has taken three titles in four

"This is where it started for me last year, it has special meaning for that. And, it's winning tournaments like this that make you No.

The centre court and most of the rest of Jarry Stadium, a Former U.S. Major League haseball park, is to be torn down and rehuilt into a higger, better tennis facility for next year.

-The Las Vegas native recorded his 400th career match victory, seventh among active players on the ATP Tour. He ended Sampras's 16-match winning streak, which included a third consecutive Wimbledon title on July 3. Sampras is eighth with 395 wins.

Sampras beld the world No. 1 ranking for S2 weeks until he was ousted hy Agassi, the reigning U.S. Open and Australian Open champion, on April 10.

It was Agassi's fifth tour-



Andre Agassi

second in a row after a win last week in Washington. Sampras, 23, started quickly on a hot, breezy day before a capacity crowd of 10.011.

He served two aces and a service winner to take the first game at love, then broke Agassi's service for a

4-2 lead that clinched the set. It was the first time Agassis dropped a set in five matches this week. But Agassi raised his game

a notch io the second, while Sampras began to struggle at the service line.

A turning point came in the final set, when Agassi

The result evened the career matchup between the rivals at eight wins apiece, hut Agassi has beaten Sampras in three of four meet-

"After the first set, Andre raised his level and I went down a hit," Sampras said. "I had some chances, but I wasn't aggressive enough and he was dictating the

play."
"His serve is basically a shot to get you moving his way. And once he gets you going side to side, he's got

Sampras was hardly down-

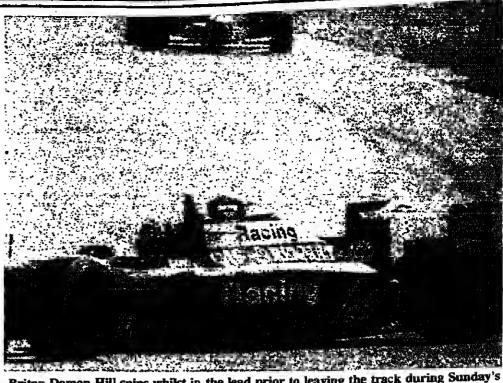
"It was good for me to get to the final, especially after that emotional win in Wimhledon. I'm disappointed. I'm here to win, hut this is a good start to the summer hardcourt season)."

Agassi leads Sampras by 1.016 ATP Tour points. Both are next scheduled to play the ATP Championship tournament in Cincinnati in two weeks, a key wartnup for the U.S. Open beginning Aug. 29 in New York.

Agassi earned \$254,000 for the victory while Sampras took home \$133,800.

In the doubles final, the fourth-seeded Russian duo of Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Andrei Olbovsky scored a quick 6-2, 6-2 win over Brian MacPhie of the United States and Sandon Stolle of Australia.

The tournament set a Canadian Open attendance record of II9,927 for the week, eclipsing the previous mark of 118,095 set in 1987 in Montreal.



Briton Damon Hill spins whilst in the lead prior to leaving the track during Sunday's German Formula-One Grand Prix in Hockenheim. Behind is Michael Schumacher (AFP Photo)

Schumacher basks in glory as Hill spins out

HOCKENHEIM. Germany (AP) - Damon Hill will have to drive better if he is to make a credible challenge for Michael Schumacher's Formula One title.

After spinning out io his Williams-Renault barely one lap into the German Grand Prix Sunday, Hill failed to finish his second race in a

Schumacher took full advantage of Hill's mistake to win the race in his Benetton-Renault and open a 21point lead, with eight races left in the 17-event Grand Prix season.

pole position and Schumacher right behind him, Sunday's race had all the makings of an epic thriller. With both drivers making no secret of their dislike for

With Hill starting from

each other, some British tabloids had even dubbed it the "race of hate."

Hill never even gave.
100,000 German fans time

to hate him. "I am very shocked because I was comfortable in the car. I went into the

corner and the rear end suddenly locked up. i don't have an explanation for it,"

"I wasn't overdoing it. I

bend, then suddenly the back end went away from me. I was pushing hard, trying to pull out an advantage hut I must say I've been around that corner enough times this weekend to know wbether I'm within the limit

"To me it felt as if the rear hrakes came on a hit harder than they had done before - 1 don't really know, but that is what it felt like to me and it caught me out

"This is pretty devastating for my championship hopes," Hill said. In five pole starts this sea-

son, Hill has not won a race.

The Briton has two wins,

both of them coming from

At the British Grand Prix in Silverstone two weeks ago, Hill tried to overtake Schumacher from the inside in a questionable

manoeuvre, rammed the German and took both drivers out of the race.

The collision cooled already frigid relations between the two drivers. Schumacher clinched last season's world title by one

point over Hill, after he crashed into Hill's car in the the season, Schumacher also made some history by becoming the first German driver to win a German Grand Prix.

Schumacher, 26, posted a time of one hour, 22 minutes, 56.043 seconds for the 45-lap race on the 6.823kilometre circuit as he cruised home.

David Coulthard, in the second Williams-Renault, finished second, 5.988 seconds behind Schumacher. Gerhard Berger, the Austrian driving a Ferrari who won here last year, was third, one minute, 8.097 seconds minute,

The gap between Schu-macher and Berger would have been greater had Schnmacher not made two pitstops for Conlinard's one.

Schumacher said he was amazed when he saw Hill spin out.

"I thought the first corner could be quite slippery and Ibraked early. There must have been a lot of oil and

"I saw Damon slide sideways and hit the wall and i 4. macher said.

After four years in prison, Mike Tyson felt discouraged in first sparring session

LAS VEGAS (AP) — His different."
muscles were sore, his Recalling timing was off. Mike Tysoo was finding

out what a legioo of past fighters had discovered pnysical shape is not fighting shape.
"Boxers who visited me

(in prison) told me that it comes back." Tysoo said in an interview. "And as sooo as i hit the bag, it came right back. I was hitting the bag like the champion of the world. but boxing was something

· Recalling his first sparring session for his Aug. 19 fight against Peter McNeeley at the MGM Grand Casino-Hotel in Las Vegas, his first in more than four years, Tyson said, "I was very depressed. I looked like crap. I was very discouraged."

He said he was reminded of an incident he read about in the life of Willie Ritchie, a lightweight champion in

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It seems Ritchie fought an eight-round no-decision bout against a tough customer and had taken a beating. When Ritchie found out be was to have a rematch in two weeks be was not

prepared himself anyway. On the day of the fight, Ritchie's opponent did now show. It seemed he had taken a beating, too, and wanted no more of Ritchie.

pleased, hut he

"The moral of the story is you've just got to go through with things," Tyson said. The word now is that Tyson has been knocking down sparring partners with

regularity. That's the name of the game, isu't it?" Tyson said,

The word, however, was

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Since beginning training after his release from prison March 25. Ivson's workouts have been closed.

suspect in some quarters

because it came from John

Horne and Rory Holloway,

Tyson's managers.

fought off three break points

to hold service for a 4-1

"I was hitting some hig.

heavy shots on those break

points," Agassi said, "I

could see he was taking

chances - you have to at that

point. But if you let him

Rumors had it that Tyson was out of shape, that his hands were hurting. Marc Ratner, executive

director of the Nevada State Athletic Commission, attended a workout last Monday, watched Tyson spar five rounds, and liked what he saw.

"He looked very hig, very strong," Ratner said. "I thought he looked very sharp, not at all like he hadn't fought in four years. It looks like he's ready to fight right now. I was very impressed.

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Those involved in the promotioo said the reason for the closed workout is purely financial.

"The idea is you want more drama so people are curious what he looks like. said Mike Marley. a spokesman for promoter Doo King. "You see him fight when

you pay your pesos."
"The media will be allowed to watch Tyson work out Wednesday at Hal Miller's Golden Gloves

Tyson last fought on June 28, 1991, against Donovan "Razor" Ruddock, While he won on points over 12 rounds, be didn't appear to be the iron Mike who became a champion at age 20 and dominated the spon until he was upset on a 10th

"Buster" Douglas on Feb. 11, 1990. Critics suggest that Tyson began slipping as a fighter after his 93-second knockout of Michael Spinks on June

round knockout hy jJames

GOREN BRIDGE

THE AUCTION TOLD THE STORY Both vulnerable. North deals. NORTH

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- 8 4 2
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- 7 8 Q 10 9 7 5
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- The bidding:

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4 NT Pass 5 + Pass
6 Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: 7 4
We have uften written about how important it is to choose the right opening lead. Put yourself in West's

opening lead. Put yourself in West's place and decided what you would lead at trick one and why.

North's opening bid was artificial and strong, and South's response was positive, showing at least a five-card suit headed by two if the three top honors. North elected to show the spedes first the indicate a source of trick, then two coursel when

partner rehid hearts and settled in a

was missing.

It was obvious to West that East, had a yarborough. Also, it was more than likely North held both the ace and queen of clubs and that, if nec-essary, declarer would be able to take a successful finesse for the

West had knowledge not available to declarer—the spade suit could not be established for discards. Since no declarer likes to rest the fale of a contract, especially a slam, on a 50-50 chance if any other line was available. West chose the jack of

West's reasoning proved impec-cable. Since the contract was cold if spades were no worse that 4-2, declarer rose with the ace of clubs, drew one round of trumps, then went after spades. Unfortunately, East ruffed the second apade and the defenders collected the king of the and are of diamonds for a twoclubs and ace of diamonds for a two-

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Offerors are requested to pick up RFP No. Jordan 95-010 documents at room 203, Ministry of Water & Irrigation Building beginning 12:00 O'clock noon, August 1, 1995

Closing date for offers is 12:00 Oklock noon August 10, 1995

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Tennis top rankings

Paris (AFP) -ATP tennis rankings published on Mon-

1.Andre Agassi - 5161 pts 2.Pete Sampras - 4145 3.Thomas Muster - 3667 4.Boris Becker - 3598 5.Michael Chang - 3064 6.Kafelnikov 2676

7.Goran Ivanisevic - 2660 8. Wayne Ferreira - 2252 9.Michael Stich - 2232 10.Sergi Bruguera - 2123 11.Marc Rosset - 206g 12.Magnuslarsson - 1840

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Michael Jon

Sunday "I do see a team I

spots were: Anfernee Har forward Gra forward Karl ana guard Houston ce Olajuwon. O Snaquille O forward Scott Rohinson, M

LONDON (R) cial health of E clubs is in de though they ar record turnover The accou Touche Ross sa survey of fo professional ch

rose 20 per cent

1993/94, the clu

one with Hakeem Olajuwon

"I'm a little partial to the first team," Wilkens said Sunday. "I don't think you'll

see a team like that again.

Each team will make its

mark. We're going to go out there and be U.S. and not somebody else. We're not

going to try to compete with

USA Baskethall made

most of the team roster offi-

cial Sunday, annouocing a

squad that includes four

players from the 1992 team

and one naturalized U.S. cit-

Named to the first 10 of 12

spots were: Orlando guard

Anfernee Hardaway, Detroit

forward Grant Hill, Utah

forward Karl Malone, Indi-

ana guard Reggie Miller,

Houston centre Hakeem

what that team did.'

and Shaquille O'Neal.

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Tennis to ranking ris (AFP) -ATP ikings published on b

LAndre Agassi Pete Sampras Boris Becker 5 Michael Chang

10. Sergi Brugue

come lisation t at S:30 p.m. ion please call 55 Amman

Olajuwon and O'Neal named to head 1996 U.S. Olympic squad

NEW YORK (AP) - Lensy Wilkens got his "Dream ward Glenn Robinson and Utah guard John Stockton. Team" on Sunday, and he wants this squad to be as dis-Malone, Pippen and Stockton were on the origitinctive as the one that rolled nal dream team, as was to the gold medal in Robinson, who also woo a Barcelooa in 1992. bronze medal in the 1988 An assistant coach of the games, the last all-collegian

original Dream Team, national team. Wilkens sidesteps the sub-The other two roster spots will be filled next year, ject of which might be the better squad — the original with Magic Johnson and probably in the spring. One of them could be Michael Jordan or the oew

giveo to Magic Johnsoo, who recently announced he would not come out of retirement and rejoin the Los Angeles Lakers. Johnsoo has expressed a desire to play in the Olympics a sec-The announcement Sun-

day came on a nationally televised broadcast, and represented a welcome change of pace for the NBA, which has locked out its players and been unable to reach a labour agreement with the players' union.

The selection of this Olympic team was largely without the cootroversy that surrounded the makeup of the 1992 team, when Detroit's Isiah Thomas was oot included and Michael Jordan had to be persuaded to take part.

This time, Michael Jordan said early on he didn't want championship team. Charlotte's Larry Johnsoo, New Jersey's Derrick Coleman and Seattle's Shawn Kemp.

Following last year's world championships in Toronto, USA Basketball officials quietly made it known they were displeased with the unsportsmanlike and unseemly behavior by some players of the gold medal team, and those players wouldn't be invited to Atlanta. Wilkens may not want to

make any comparisons, but that does not mean his players will follow suit. "This Dream Team could take on all the other dream teams put together," said O'Neal, a member of the

1994 U.S. world champi-

onship team, known as

Dream Team II. "This team is really deep, more so eveo than Dream Team Il." Miller said. "We are really strong in the centre position, with Hakeem, David and Shaq. We have two of the greatest point guards in Penny and Stockton, and we have the most talented three (small ford-

ward) in the game today in

Scottie Pippen." Olajuwon was named to the team after waging a long campaign with FIBA to be for his adopted country.



IAAF appears certain to halve 4-year doping ban

GOTHENBURG. Sweden (R) - The international Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) looks certain this week to halve its four-year ban for serious doping offences after a series of challenges in the civil

The IAAF council has backed a proposal to be presented to its coogress starting oo Tuesday calling for a two-year han for first offenders in line with loternational Olympic Committee (IOC) moves to harmonise drugs penalties across all sports.

Receotly the IAAF has found itself fighting doping cases in the civil courts. most ootahly io much-publicised scandals involving German sprinter Katrin Krahbe and American 400 metres world record holder Butch Reynolds.

"Some delegates believe that the IAAF has to be responsible and realistic in its recommendations and have eoforceable rules," IAAF General Secretary Istvan Gyulai said.

"Being passionate about doping is ooe thing. But some say there is no point in haviog law suits that are desare impossible to enforce."

The LAAF is keen to emphasise that a minimum two-year ban brings athletics in line with other sports but officials admit legal problems have played a major role.

Some of the IAAF's medical experts have consistently opposed the four-year han and helieve expanding outof-competition testing is a more effective way of catching cheats.

German officials, battlehardened by two doping scandals involving former double world sprint champioo Krahbe io 1992, put a proposal to the congress in Stuttgart two years ago to reduce the penalties because they were oot practical. The coogress rejected the idea.

The mood of the dehate is likely to be less passionate and more practical in Gothenhurg, especially in view of the couocil's support of the idea which bas been officially proposed by

Some couotries, such as Britain, were fierce oppooents of change last time. Gyulai said: "It would be

tined to be lost and rules that left to the discretion of a country such as Britain if they wanted to maintain the four years. It could even be longer. There is oo upper limit."

> IAAF officials admit, however, that some couotries might find it hard to ban their athletes from competing for four years while doping offenders from other nations were returning to action after two years.

They also concede that an athlete hanned for four years is less likely to return to competitioo than one who is out of the sport for just two seasons.

The congress will also discuss a German proposal to force athletes to prove they have uodergone at least two out-of-competitioo tests in the build-up to major championships before they are allowed to compete.

The IAAF is keen to make sure the proposal is enforceable in all countries. Athletes from the less developed world could be in danger of missing champiooships, simply because their country does oot have an efficient testing pro-

One dead, dozens injured Olajuwon, Orlando centre Shaquille O'Neal, Chicago to be considered for a spot, forward Scottie Pippen, San declared eligible to compete and there were oo glaring Houston Rockets' star Hakeem Olajuwon at Jakarta soccer match Antonio centre David omissions. Passed over were Robinson, Milwaukee forthree members of the world

English clubs' financial health declines

LONDON (R) - The financial health of English soccer clubs is in decline, even though they are generating

record turnover. The accounting firm Touche Ross said its annual survey of football club accounts showed that while professional clubs' turnover rose-20 per cent to £387 million (\$618.3 million) in clubs and those in the lower

profit of only £12,000 (\$19,170).

Most profits are being generated by Premier League sides, with clubs in lower divisions posting average losses of £416,000. (\$664,600) — up from average losses of £379,000

(\$605.500) in 1992/93. The gap between the top-1993/94, the clubs generated divisions is getting wider,"

said Gerry Boon, chairman of the Touche Ross football industry team.

Only 39 per cent of all clubs posted operating profits in 1993/94, down from 41 per cent the previous

The costs of running a football club have increased significantly, due principally

to a substantial increase in players' wages salaries," said Boon.

Players' wages and salaries totalled £140 million (\$223.7 million) in 1993/94, swallowing 55 per cent of the total tumover of all professional clubs.

Players' earnings rose 19 "ities they may be unable to per cent in 1993/94. Trans- support the wages and fer fees rose to a record £92

millioo (\$147 million) from £73 million (\$116.6 million) the previous season.

Higher wages and salaries in the Premier League are having a "knock-off effect" throughout the game, Boone said. But unless clubs in the lower divisions greatly develop their off-field activsupport the wages and

JAKARTA (AFP)
Police said Monday that one man died during the Dunhill soccer final here Sunday night, while press reports blamed dozens more injuries on

stone-throwing.
Sutaryono, 63, from
Bandung, West Java,
already had a heart condition, said police sergeant Sutrisno, refusing to comment on newspaper reports that the man was trampled on his way out of the

"He died on the way to the hospital," the officer from the Tanah Abang police station told AFP.
The daily Bisnis

Indonesia also reported that dozens were injured due to stone-throwing between supporters during a match watched by a crowd of 120,000. Police and security

officers at the Senayan Stadium refused to confirm the number of people injured.

One of the stadium's ... gates burned down before the match in a fire caused by cigarette butts, ..; a stadium security officer said.

The Persib team from beat Bandung Petrokimia Putra team from Gresik, East Java, with the game's only goal, 76 minutes into the game and will represent Indonesia in the Asia Championship Cup in Bangkok in September.



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Syria says it will not be pressured into deal with Israel

Rabin doubts agreement could be

reached before November elections

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria on Monday criticised Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for casting doubt on prospects for peace before elections in Israel in 1996.

Meanwhile, Syria's Army Chief Lientenant-General Hikmat Shihabi was quoted as saying Damascus could not be pressured into signing a peace accord with Israel which would harm its

sovereignty.

A Syrian official said Mr.
Rabin's remarks doubting a peace deal with Syria before Israeli elections showed that be has not yet taken a deci-sion to make peace.

'Rahin's remarks were based on the knowledge of his own position refusing to meet the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace," the official told Reu-

"Rabin has not yet taken a decision to make a peace and that is why he is doubting an early agreement," he said. "As for us in Syria we said

peace could be achieved in days if Israel agrees to full withdrawal from the Golan Heights and to implement balanced and equal security

ensure security and peace to all," the official added.

Mr. Rabin told his ministers on Sunday that he doubted a peace deal could be reached with Syria before elections in Israel due by November 1996.

"He said he had serious doubts over the chance of reaching an agreement with the Syrians before the elections," Mr. Rabin's spokeswoman Aliza Goren told Reuters.

Mr. Rabin made the remarks at the weekly cabinet meeting during a discussion on cuts in the 1996 state

budget.
He said implementing peace deals with Israel's Arah neighbours, including the PLO, would require extra funds but no agreement with Syria was expected. Mr. Rabin, who is also

cabinet approved. Israel's planned troop redeployment in the West Bank, part of its 1993 peace deal with the PLO, is expected to cost hundreds of millions of dollars.

The official Al Baath newspaper qunted Gen. Shihabi as saying in an interview to mark the country's Army Day that peace in the region could never be achieved without Syria.

He said Damascus would not suhmit to the "pressure of time" to rush for solutions which might harm its overeignty or dignity."
"Syria will not fall at any

stage under the pressure of haste, the running ont of time or elections which might be held here or there," he said. "If Israel doesn't respond to the requirements of peace

defence minister, supported it will be difficult to predict a warning systems, definition the budget cuts which the progress in the peace process of the demilitarised zones or the establishment of a peace capable of survival in this region," Gen. Shihabi

> Syria and Israel have reached no agreement in abont four years of sporadie peace negotiations.

The talks are stalled over the fate of the Golan Heights, a strategic plateau Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war, security arrangements and future ties. Gen. Shihahi and his

Israeli opposite number Lieutenant-General Amnon Shahak discussed during talks in Washington in June security arrangements which would back up a proposed Israeli withdrawal from the Golan but they reached no

The arrangements include the establishment of early and the deployment of peacekeeping troops.

Syrian officials have said

Damascus had strongly refused Israeli demands for the setting of a ground Israeli early warning station on the Golan and proposed aerial

surveillance instead.
They said Damascus had refused to send its military experts back to Washington until Israel lifts its demand for the ground station and until an agreement on any item on the agenda of the talks is reached

"Israel placed obstacles on the way of the military talks, made up problems and changed the priorities. As lung as Israel maintain this policy of delusion, progress in the peace process would be impossible," Gen. Shihabi

Israel's opposition is against giving up any of the Gulan Heights to Syria and polls have shown Mr. Rabin could lose the election to hardline Likud leader Ben-

jamin Netanyahu. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Sunday that Syria has "shot itself in the foot" hy refusing to con-tinue military talks with

"Syria has acted against its nwn interests and shot itself in the foot," Mr. Peres said on the Israeli Radio, adding that Damascus has "violated agreements made with the United States to continue talks between military ex-

But Mr. Peres said it would not be "useful to present Syria with an ultimatum." Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa on Sunday ruled out a meeting of Syrian

until the two countries agree in principle on security arrangements for the Golan

Heights.
"Meetings between military experts would be useless because they cannot negotiate without an agreement on security measures," he said in Damascus.

Mr. Sharaa rejected Israeli accusations that Syria was to hlame for the deadlock in peace talks because of its reluctance to send military experts to Washington. These are false accusa-

tions, because we are ready to send experts if we reach an accord on at least one part of the security arrangements, such as the warning stations,"

The foreign minister added there was no word of a possible new regional shuttle by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to enax Israel and Syria back to the negotiating table. Mr. Christopher said on

July 16 in Damascus that talks between the two countries would resume "within a week or two" at the amhassadorial level.

Marcos Jr gets 9 years' jail for tax evasion

nand Marcos was sentenced

to mine years' jail Monday for

vince while his father was still

in power. The unpaid taxes

involved a total 8,500 pesos

(\$331), including 107 pesos (\$4) for 1982. "It was not out

of sheer ignorance, or inno-

cence or neglect that be failed to (pay the taxes)," Judge Benedicto Ulep said when handing down his ruling.

"The length of time that he failed to do so indicates that

his ommission was wilful, in-tentional and deliberate," he

said. Mr. Marcos, a former

congressman, failed to win a

Senate seat in last May's con-

ressional election.

movie about

Hindu-Muslim

riots threatened

NEW DELHI (AP) - The

heroine of a movie about Hindu-Muslim riots in India

was provided armed police

guards after threats to her

life, a news agency said, Since Thursday, Monisha Koirala has been getting tree-

phone calls at her Bombay

apartment and the anony-

mous caller has been thre-

atening to kill her for playing

the role of a Muslim girl in

the movie Bombay, Press

Trust of India said quoting

police. Five policemen were

also deployed ontside Obero

where the Nepal-born Hindu

actress stays. The movie's director, Mani Ratnam,

escaped an assassination bid

earlier this month when sus-

bombs inside his house in the

southern city of Madras. The

Ratnam, injuring him slight-

released in main Indian cities

earlier this year. Muslim-

groups accused Ratnam of

immodestly depicting a Mus

lim girl, because Koirala was

shown without her veil. They

also said that the movie por-

trayed Bombay's Muslims as

the aggressors during the

riots in 1993 in the aftermath

of the destruction of an-

ancient mosque in the north-

ern town of Ayodhya by Hin-

du fanatics. The riots killed

800 people in Bombay city.

The controversy delayed the

release of the movie in Bom-

bay and the film was tempor-

arily hanned in many states:

where authorities feared it

would incite Hindu-Muslim

and marriage of a Hindu

journalist and a Muslim-

woman, the movie examines

the traditional hostilities be-

tween India's 750 million

Hindus and its 120 million

Ministers embark

on golf diplomacy

BANDAR SERI BES GAWAN (AFP) — Austra

lian Foreign Minister Garetha

Evans was up early Monday to embark on some golf dis-plomacy with ASEAN county

terparts. Mr. Evans arriveda

in Brunei late Sunday to take

East Asian Nations meetings.

The organisation regularly

takes to the golf course for

informal talks. Peppered with

questions by reporters as he

prepared to tee off, Mr.

Evans asked for space, telling journalists to "take it easy."

Also at the tee were foreign

ministers Ali Alatas of In-

donesia, Abdullah Ahmad

lippines, S. Jayakumar of

Singapore and Kasem

Kasemsri of Thailand.

Badawi of Malaysia,
Domingo Siazon of the Phi-

part in Association of South

violence. Using the courtship

crude bombs landed close to

ly. Bombay triggered a con-troversy even before it was

pected Muslim fanatics threw.

Towers, the apartment block

Heroine of

evading taxes of £,500 pesos (\$331) in the latest blow to a family that once ruled the Philippines like a fietdom. A suhurban Quezon City court found the 38-year-old former congressman guilty of tax evasion and ordered his immediate arrest after he failed to appear for the sentencing. His hail 200,000 peso (\$7,800) bond was also cancelled. Court appeals said there will he an appeal against the decision. A family spokeswoman said Marcos Jr ines and the situal was abroad. His mother, for mer first lady Imedia Marcos, At a press confi-jointly with Presid ak, King Husseir who is facing an I6-year iall term for alleged corruption, would not make any con-ment. Marcos Jr was convicted on four counts of fall lure to pay taxes and form counts of failing to declare his income from 1982 to 1985 when he was governor of northern Ilocos Norte pro-

·We are workin the Arah ranks an if God wishes, tha soon be united." I ak told reporters

after arriving in Her Majesty Quand Prime Minis

and consolidate action through League," Egyptia King Hussein le man shortly after

Mubarak also dis

Leaflet cl

Ham

Hamas leader to Hamas demande mediate release Abu Marzouk. Oti said, "the United

immigration officia York, Israel issued for his arrest an

retire

apon his request

Iraq urge U.N. to finish disarmament mission by August

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq on Monday urged the U.N. finish its work by the end of Angust and warned that any delay would be seen as an unacceptable ploy to extend

the economic sanctions.
Rolf Ekeus, head of the
U.N. Special Commission
(UNSCOM) on disarming Iraq, is dne in Baghdad on Friday to determine whether Iraq has fullfilled a promise to provide a full and final report on its germ warfare programme.
"The accord with Mr.

Ekeus called for verification of information provided by Iraq on its biological weapons not to exceed the end of August, the official Jomhur-iya newspaper said.

accept U.S.

NICOSIA (AFP) - The two

main feuding Kurdish fac-

tions in northern Iraq have

accepted a U.S. plan for

peace talks next week in Lis-

bon, Kurdish officials said

the two parties meet in Lis-

bon for peace talks," Bruska

Shaways, a senior official of

the Kurdistan Democratic

Party (KDP), told AFP hy

telephone from northern

"We accepted to demons-

trate our goodwill and will

send a delegation consisting

of memhers of our polit-

The rival Patriotic Union

The meeting is scheduled

of Kurdistan (PUK) accepted

the U.S. offer for talks last

for August 9 through August

11 in the Portuguese capital,

and would be the first be-

tween the two sides' political

The two groups, which have controlled northern Iraq

in defiance of Baghdad since

the end of the 1991 Gulf war,

are loeked in a hitter struggle

for power and over tax re-

More than 2,000 people.

have been killed since the

fighting erupted in May 1994,

according to Kurdish sources.

CAIRO (R) - A Cairo state

security court will try 29 sus-

pected Muslim militants next

week on charges of killing

three policemen and wound-

ing six in the southern pro-

vince of Aswan in 1993, court

The trial of the accused,

five of whom are on the run,

will open on Saturday, they

The men are also accused

of joining an illegal group

that aims to overthrow the

government by accusing the

president of heresy and plot-

ting to assassinate public fi-

The sources said the mili-

tants helong to Egypt's

largest armed Islamie group,

Al Gamaa Al Islamiyeh (Isla-

mic Group), which has been

fighting a low-level guerrilla

against police in southern

provinces for the past three

sources said on Monday.

Egypt to

militants

try 29

said.

hureaus in seven months.

hurn," he said.

"The Americans suggested

mediation

Kurds

"Any delay would be un-justified, unacceptable and would mean UNSCOM's fai-

lure," the newspaper said.
"UNSCOM has started to
insinuate that its work will take more time and would extend into September. It's a manoeuvre encouraged by the United States to delay the lifting of the embargo," it

"UNSCOM's mission could be completed even before the end of August if there existed good will and there were no outside political interference," the newspaper said.

frag on July 19 gave UN-SCOM an ultimatum to finish its work by the end of August and recommend a lifting of the embargo or face the with-

DUBAI (AFP) — Iraqi opposition members on Mon-

day warned against respond-

ing to an amnesty announced

by President Saddam Hus-

sein's government for those

charged with political crimes.
"What he (Saddam)

has already announced a

dozen amnesties without re-

specting them since 1979,"

when he became president of

Iraq, according to Qassem Ghali, an opposition member

living in London.
"All those who believed

his promises ended up regret-

ting it," Mr. Ghali, who

works for the Iraqi National

Congress newspaper Al Mutamar, told AFP by tele-

He said President Saddam

has since 1991 sent envoys to

persaude exiled opponents to

members in Algeria, Khalil Jazaeri and Khaled Al Salam,

believed him. They returned

m 1992, following an official

accord signed hy the Iraqi ambassador in Algiers," he

and executed as soon as be

arrived in Baghdad and the

second was able to flee to-

wards the northern areas"

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan

is to count the number of

refugees from neighbouring

countries it is hosting in a bid

to clear up disputes with the

United Nations and aid orga-

nisations over the figure,

Omdurman state radio re-

ported on Monday.
The radio said the cabinet

ordered the census in a meet-

ing on Sunday chaired by

President Omar Hassan Al

The number is a matter of

dispute hetween Sudanese

anthorities and the U.N.,

voluntary agencies and the countries of origin.

Interior Minister Brigadier

Al Tayeb Ibrahim Moham-

mad Khair told the cabinet

Sudan had hosted more than

one million refugees from

other African countries over

Mr. Khair said 20 per cent

of all African refugees, or the

equivalent of three per cent

of the world refugee popula-

tion, were in Sudan, Africa's

largest country in area but

one of its most impoverished.

He called on the internation-

the past three decades.

Sudan to carry out

census of refugees

"The first was emprisoned

"Two exiled opposition

return to Iraq.

Iraqi opposition questions

credibility of amnesty

drawal of Iraq's cooperation. drawal of Iraq's cooperation.

Mr. Ekeus has said the germ warfare issne is the only big obstacle to lifting the sanctions imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August

Baghdad said Saturday it would cooperate fully with Mr. Ekeus.

Under U.N. resolutions ending the 1991 Gulf war to liberate Kuwait, Iraq must eliminate its weapons of mass destruction and comply with long-term arms monitoring before the oil embargo can be

The United States has taken a hardline, demanding Iraq comply also with nonweapons resolutions on human rights and Kuwaiti pris-

under Kurdish control, Dr. Ghali charged. "This is just one example among dozens."

The Iraqi government announced an amnesty Sun-

day, calling for the release of

prisoners convicted for poli-

tical reasons and for a stop to

tives" in and outside the

themselves in if they are in-

side the country and two

months if they are residing

elsewhere, under the amnes-

The decree also calls for

the restitution of property

taken from those benefiting

The ruling Revolutionary Command Council headed by

President Saddam decided on

July 22 to offer amnesty to

army deserters, who faced

having their ear cut off. It

also changed the death sent-

ence to life imprisonment and

authorised the release in

some cases of prisoners con-

al community to increase aid

to the refugees.
The U.N. High Commis-

(UNHCR) does not believe

the number in Sudan is so

high but it has not come up

500,000 Entrean and 300,000

Ethiopian refugees on its

territory but its two neigh-

bours say Sndan has exagger-

accused Sudan of raising the

number as a ploy to get more

charge and says the refugees

have damaged the environ-

ment in eastern Sudan, where

lack of aid for the refugees. A

decade ago it used to receive

about \$40 million a year but

now gets just over \$9 million.

eline down to the return

home of many refugees and

the increase in the number of

refugees worldwide, which

has put a strain on donors.

The UNHCR puts the de-

Sudan has complained of

most of their camps are.

Some aid agencies have

Sudan has dismissed the

ated the figures.

international aid.

Sudan says there are about

with an alternative figure.

victed of murder.

from the amnesty.

agency said.

The amnesty decree said

OUT: Israeli soldiers Monday battle with settlers, who are trying to dismantle a wooden but, as they are being removed from a hilltop next to the Palestinian village of Al Khader on the West Bank. Israeli security forces cleared hundreds of settlers from a hill named "Givat Hadagen" after they began to build an illeg-al colony (AFP photo)

SETTLERS DRAGGED



Search for Kashmir hostages is expanded

SRINAGAR, India (AP) -The government Monday expanded its search for five Western hostages, fearing that Kashmiri militants have moved them away from the area of the kidnappings.

the decision was dictated by the "humane and national That Al Faran separatist considerations expressed by group hasn't issued a state-President Saddam in a recent ment for a week, prompting speech, the official Iraqi news one state government officia to say Monday that "the si-Those wanted for political lence is indeed haffling." crimes have a month to turn

Al Faran kidnapped an American, two Britons, a German and a Norwegian around July 4 in the Pahal-gam region of Kashmir, and it is demanding the release of 21 jailed Kashmiri militants.

"Our troops have fairly co-vered the Pahalgam area, hut there is no sign of them (kid-nappers)," said the official, who eannot he identified under standing briefing regulations in Srinagar, the centre of the 5-year-old Muslim rebellion in Kashmir.

Government officials attrihute the lack of communication to monsoon floods that had covered the road between Srinagar and Pahalgam, a tourist resurt town south of Srinagar.

On Tuesday, a 10-day Hindu pilgrimage begins in the Pahalgam area to a Himalayan mountain cave, and tens of thousands of Indian troops have been deployed to protect the pilgrims. sioner for Refugees

"It is quite likely that the kidnappers have managed to flee from the area to avoid heing detected hy our said another troops. Jammu-Kashmir state government official.

The Indian government has refused to release the 21 jailed militants that Al Faran has identified.

On Sunday, another Kashmiri separatist group, Hizbul Mnjahedeen, demanded that Al Faran also demand the release of Ramzi Yousef, who is accused of masterminding the Feb. 26, 1993. World Trade Centre bombing in New York. Mr Yousef was arrested this year in Islambad, Pakistan's capital,

and is jailed in New York. Since late 1989, Muslim militants have been fighting for the independence of Jammu-Kashmir, the only state in mostly Hindu India with a Muslim majority. About 13,000 people have died. logue between the two Ko-

Hiroshima mayor supports 'whatever means' to stop French nuclear tests ki, another Japanese city de-Minister Qian Qichen.

vastated by a U.S. atomic bomb in the closing days of

World War' II, Berlin and

Hannover of Germany,

Como of Italy, Lukasa of

Zamhia, the U.S. city of Sac-

er, Vorgograd of Russia and

commemorate the 50th

bombing next Sunday, has

campaigned for the elimina-

The bombing, which killed an estimated 140,000 in the

city, was "cruel" especially

because people are suffering

from the effects of radioactiv-

ity even 50 years after, Mr.

Foreign Minister Gareth

Evans said Monday while

Australia deplores China's

nuclear tests, it considers the

proposed French tests more

harmful because of their en-

In Brunei, Australian

Hiraoka said.

tion of nuclear weapons.

anniversary of the U.S.

Hiroshima, which will

Wollongong of Australia.

TOKYO (AFP) — Takashi Hiraoka, the mayor of the atomic-hombed eity of Hiroshima, pledged Monday to support the boycott of French products or any other means to stop France's plan September.

"We should use whatever means to stop France from conducting nuclear tests," Mr. Hiraoka told a news conference in Tokyo. He said the French deci-

sion, along with China's nuc-lear testing in May, was particularly regrettable as it came at "an important juncture" when the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) was extended this year. "Such moves will under-

mine our faith in countries with nuclear weapons and shake up the reliability of a new NPT framework," Mr. Hiraoka said. The mayor also said

Hiroshima and nine other member cities of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity had sent a letter of protest to the French government, demanding a halt to

The nine cities are Nagasa-

"I don't think the two situations are strictly comparable," he said.

vironmental impact.

Mr. Evans said he will, however, raise the issue of China's nuclear tests when he meets with Chinese Foreign

"I want to make it clear that we continue to deplore the Chinese testing programme," he said. Mr. Evans and Mr. Qian are in Brunei for the region's

nggest securi y iorum i uesday, among 19 countries and the European Union. Participants include U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Mr. Evans told reporters the Chinese, unlike the

French, have not pledged a moratorium on nuclear tests and do not threaten the environment. Besides, the Chinese conduct their tests in their own haekyard.

He was responding to a question whether Australia would consider imposing sanctions on China for its nuclear tests.

Australia imposed limited defence sanctions, including cancelling a defence contract, against France after it recently announced plans to resume nuclear testing in French Polynesia in the South Pacific. Australia, New Zealand and small Pacific nations have protested strongly, saying the tests are harmful to the environment.

Seoul arrests widow for N. Korea trip

SEOUL (R) - The widow of one of South Korea's most prominent dissidents was arrested Monday for an unauthorised trip to communist North Korea despite threats from Pyongyang that her arrest would hamper relations between the two Koreas.

for her, and she was arrested right after she crossed over to During a farewell gatherthe Southern side," said a spokesman at the Agency for National Security Planning

"She was arrested for hreaking the country's national security law which bans unauthorised trips to the He said Park Young-Gil

"We had an arrest warrant

was admitted to the National Police Hospital to undergo a physical checkup before being questioned. The Stalinist North has

made several threats to the South before Mr. Park's return that her arrest would lead to a "more acute phase of confrontation" between the two Koreans.

The threats came as South Korea prepared a fresh initiative aimed at reopening dia-

reans, which are still technically at war since the 1950-53 Korean War.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said the North would "keep tabs on their (South Korea's) crimes in the name of the whole nation and of the ethics and morality and make them pay a hundred-fold, a thousandfold for it."

ing for Mrs. Park, chairman of the Korean Religionists Association Jang Jae-Chol, also warned the South. "If the South Korean au-

thorities arrest Pak Young-Gil as they persecuted Rev. Moon when he returned from the visit to Pyongyang, it will invite hitter denunciation from all the fellow countrymen and they will have to be held wholly responsible for the possible grave consequences," he said.

Mrs. Park's husband Moon Ik-Hwan served four years in jail after he illegally visited Pyongyang in 1989.

pastor, died in January 1994 after a decades-old personal crusade for full democracy He came under the media

Rev. Moon, a Protestant

and Korean unification.

spotlight when he met Kim Il-Sung during his visit to try to end what he called the tragedy of Korea's division at the end of World War II. The 75-year-old Mrs. Park

visited North Korea on June

28 at the invitation of North Korean authorities to mark the first anniversary of "great leader" Kim Il-Sung's death on July 8, 1994. KCNA, monitored in Tokyo, said Mrs. Park visited

the Kumsusan Memorial Palace in Pyongyang where Mr. Kim's body lies in state for public view.

During her stay in Pyon-gyang, Mrs. Park also met North Korea's new leader Kim Jong-ll during a memorial ceremony for his late father Kim Il-Sung.

An official at the Unification Ministry said Mrs. Park's arrest would give the North a reason to "pick a fight" with the South. "We will have to wait and

see whether the North's threats are real or not. But it gives them a reason to talk about this for a while, and hopefully it will die away," the official, who asked not to be named, told Reuters hy telephone

Volume 19 MANILA (R) — The only son of late President Ferdi-

King

Follow-up C

AMMAN (Petra mittee held a med

to review progress from the peace trestalement follows:

draft agreements have already bee

in sericulture, the

on these matters Hani Mulki and i

AMMAN (Agene Majesty King Hu day made a she Egypt and held President Hosni I ways of improving on the peace pro-tions between the

Jordan along were doing the achieve Arah soli heal Arah rifts, News Agency, ported The King are confident the eventually achieve phere of cooper protherbood that so that we can status worthy of

> King Hussein w into the meeting idential Palace of Zeid Ben Shaker. The two leader on "ways to im almosphere betw

Today the King Qatar on a similar solidify Arah rel will meet the Sheikh Hamad B Al Thani. King Hussein

Middle East pear and especially

extra

(AP) — The milits group Hamas publ ter Tuesday warn dent Clinton of " anger and ref throughout the Islamic world" if t States extradites a

putting itself in an rontation with the Islamic peoples." Mr. Ahu Marzou the political wing was detained last

would seek his ex The Hamas letter lished Tuesday as tisement on the fro

Abu O

AMMAN (Petra)
Cabinet on T
approved the retir lordan's ambassad U.N. Adnan At